



Apocalypse Cockroach

Doom Cockroach

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Synopsis :

Zhang Xiao Qiang is a minor person in this dangerous apocalyptic world. Wandering around and learning the principles of the apocalypse, the dangers of the apocalypse slowly wore away his laziness and compassion. Zhang Xiao Qiang slowly becomes stronger, of course also gaining power whilst watching the madmen of the apocalypse trampling on everything. Zhang Xiao Qiang always had a bit of conscience, but he did not want to become a hero, yet he doesn't mind sharing bread from his plate. Zhang Xiao Qiang lived in a crack of the apocalyptic world until the crack could no longer hold him. Some places have gruesome descriptions, so enter with caution!!! Zhang Xiao Qiang mantra is: "Don't talk to me about human rights, Don't talk to me about the law, Don't talk to me about love!"

TL note: 'Xiao Qiang' is slang for 'cockroach' but is also the name of the main character.

#### Authors Note:

This novel used to be on another website, but it has been bought, the first 27 chapters are in first person, but the authors wanted to change it to third person. Some places may not have changed so please bear with it, additionally, the novel is set in an apocalyptic world so there will be elements of violence and despair. Don't get mad reading this if you are moral person because in a cannibalistic world is there justice? Being a minor person and trying to stay true to your conscience is not easy because this is an apocalypse!

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#### Info :

<http://www.novelupdates.com/series/apocalypse-cockroach/>

#### Raws :

<http://www.hjwzw.com/Book/23217>

#### Translator :

# Chapter 1-26

<http://chinanovel.net/index.php/apocalypse-cockroach-1/>

Changed to

Chapter 27- ?

<https://chinesenoveltranslated.wordpress.com/about/apocalypse-cockroach-%E6%9C%AB%E6%97%A5%E8%9F%91%E8%9E%82/>



Doomsday

TL: WhatTranslate,Niku

Editor:Niku

"I close my eyes, and the world doesn't exist!"

Zhang Xiao Qiang wakes up due to a burning sensation in his stomach, then he sat up, clutching his stomach in a daze, unable to distinguish if this was reality or a dream. The intense hunger in his intestines forced him to get up, all of his senses returned to his body. The room stunk with the smell of dead mouse, outside the window the sky was gloomy. In addition, the sounds coming from the zombies downstairs of various sizes and shapes stepping on broken glass made him feel a chill to his bones.

From the bedside desk he picked up half a bag of instant noodles, opening the bag he took a deep breath through his nose, the food's aroma caused him to salivate, as if the stench was no longer there. Crushing the instant noodles, he put it bit by bit into his mouth\*\* savoring the taste. Before he knew it, the last bit of noodles disappeared in his mouth. He used scissors to carefully cut open the bag of instant noodles, licking up the remaining crumbs of the noodles, he then rinsed out his mouth with mineral water and swallowed it with the residue. After he finished the rest of his water and got out of bed, he stood by the window watching the zombies on the street wandering around, contemplating how long the remaining food will last, unconsciously he

started to think about 2 weeks ago.

Zhang Xiao Qiang is a recluse, his parents died of cancer, \*\*married to another family,[TL that's what it says in the raws, I assume its someone like his sister] he is the only one left in the house. The unit leader resigned and returned home after an argument, he paid for the starting capital for a small restaurant in WH City with his friend. He was too lazy to find a job and he used the computer daily from the morning till night. His parents left him an shopfront to receive rent from so he doesn't need to worry about money for food or drinks. 1 month's rent will buy a month of supplies for the home. His weight slowly increased to 170 pounds due to living an easy low profile life.

This year, 2012, he'll be 34. All over the internet there was talk of an apocalypse but he didn't care, that is not to say he didn't see the destruction of the world in 1999! By March, Mount Fuji erupted, so subsequently there were eruptions all over the world, causing public panic as there were various rumours. Later, world leaders televised a program to deny the rumours, many experts tried to prove that all the events were due to natural causes. Once June arrived, the Earth started to calm down; there were no more earthquakes and volcanoes stopped erupting. The economy was beginning to recover; the price of pork reduced, apocalyptic websites began to shut down and life was looking good, but even so he continued as usual, waiting to die.

As the 21st December 2012 passed, nothing happened and the apocalyptic forums were silent; just some noobs complaining at home about how they cant finish the food that they bought because they bought at least a couple thousand pounds, and also that biscuit prices have increased on the market.

On the 24th December 2012 the news reported that a small cluster of

meteorites fell into the pacific, but there was no economic loss. It was only on the 31st December 2012 at 9 in the morning that the world changed.

Zhang Xiao Qiang had a late night and was preparing to go to sleep when he noticed a strange smell. He closed all the windows and doors, took a hot shower and used the expired air freshener that his sister left behind. Holding onto the quilt, he slept in the darkness. He woke up at 9, ate some food and turned on the computer. When he accessed his homepage, he realised that most of his novels were not updated. He looked for old books to read whilst cursing the authors and after an hour, he realised something wasn't right. His house was far from the centre of the city where electricity and water was produced. There are always cars coming and going so usually the sound of cars can be heard all the time. However, from when he woke up till now he had not heard a single car,

"could it be that the roads were under construction?" Zhang Xiao Qiang whispers.

Suddenly, a scream rings out. He was so startled by the sound, that he didn't even wear his shoes and he went to the window barefooted and looked out.

There were 3 to 4 people huddled under a street light. Zhang Xiao Qiang wiped his glasses on his clothes and put them back on and after carefully looking, they seemed to be eating something. The coldness beneath his feet reminded him that he was barefoot so he put on slippers to find a piece of cloth to clean the windows, which were dirty as he was too lazy to take care of them. Looking again, he realised that in the middle of the few people were a pair of legs. Then the person facing away from him sat down, the light from the street light was shining into the middle of the group. A man was laying on the ground, head tilted to

one side, his chest was ripped open and the two people squatting by were fighting over the lungs and liver whilst biting into the flesh. The one who was facing away, was holding onto a heart that he was chewing.

Zhang Xiao Qiang went limp and knelt on the floor. He felt nauseous, his throat was dry and his eyes were itchy. He quickly got up and rushed to the toilet and vomited, he vomited until his lips were bitter and he could no longer vomit, after a while only did he get up with the support of the wall. He rubbed away the tears in his eyes and filled a cup of water from the water fountain to rinse his mouth. Sitting on the floor, his head was filled with thoughts of a biochemical crisis that he had seen in horror movies, *Dawn of the Dead*, *Cannibal Cry*, and *Human Meat Bun etc.*

After sitting down for half an hour, he started to feel a little better. He went to the window to observe and saw that the number of people eating increased. Beyond the illumination of the street light, there were figures walking towards the group. Under the dim light it was all so strange, he was trembling, he got goosebumps, he felt fear in his heart!

Remembering the police, he quickly found a phone to dial with, in his hurry he couldn't remember the number, he started to sweat anxiously! Zhang Xiao Qiang took a breath to calm himself and after calming himself he dialed 110. God seemed to be toying with him as the line was busy, he then dialed 120 but that didn't work either. He also tried to call several relatives and friends but either no one picked up or the line was busy. Anxious and unable to wait, he flushed his home phone down the toilet.

The crowd gathering outside the window became quite large; the corpse of the man is now just a pile of bones at the feet of the crowd and there were many people lying on the bloodstained ground. People were continuously getting up after being knocked down and the others kept

taking bites until they are knocked down. Endless screams could be heard in the distance. Everywhere there are places on fire making the night sky as bright as day.

Seeing the city that he grew up in being ruined by the apocalypse, he felt a sadness rip through his heart. Lighting a cigarette, he inhaled a mouthful. He felt a little better, then he turned on the computer and opened up the news page. The whole page was filled with "Virus attack, only after spreading did we know that the viral symptoms could be found all the around the world; from North America, Alaska to South America, Argentina. From the African continent to the Eurasian continent, there are people who are infected with the symptoms and now the whole world is a mess." This post tells the story of the infection.\*\*

From roughly 10 o'clock in the morning, the country found out that people randomly started to attack others for no reason. After the infected increased in number and began to spread, the national emergency plan did not get enough time to start. As the virus became a disaster, the whole administrative system was destroyed and because of the virus, you don't know if your family, colleague or comrade, will suddenly go mad. Bites and scratches will cause the person to start attacking others within 45 minutes.

The virus was named DestructionOfTheWorld in Europe and in America, it was called World's Destruction of D virus.

There are two ways to get infected; airborne and contact. The infected are very strong, they have about 1.5 times the strength of a normal person and their speed is the same as normal walking speed. Their sprinting power lowered and the teeth and nails have become sharper thus normal clothes cannot withstand biting and scratching. External Features: No pupils, no sense of vision, stiff walk, both arms extend to



knee length. Sharp sense of smell, eats flesh and blood, if you are scratched or bitten, you will start to mutate. Normal people are powerless in comparison to the infected. Destroying the nerve centre or cervical spine is the only way to kill them. Until now, no new mutations have been found. Preliminary infection rate estimation is up to 90%. If anyone is reading this post, please try to continue and live on, only if you live will there be hope.

If you live, there will be hope. It was clear to Zhang Xiao Qiang that the crowd outside the window were infected. He didn't know if he had been infected, not knowing when he will start to mutate, but he is afraid of death, afraid of being eaten by the infected. He thought of his own arm being ripped off, his intestines being pulled out and eaten, he was afraid. He walked back and forth with a restless mind, lighting a cigarette to calm himself and think of a way out. He didn't even think about going out to call for help as the zombies downstairs are waiting to eat him. Zhang Xiao Qiang sat in front of the computer and began to plan. Tap water was undrinkable, only God knew if there were any zombies in the water at the water plant. Luckily he was too lazy to boil tap water, drinking bottled water instead, and the house still has half a barrel of water so there is water shortage so far. What about food? Thinking about food he hurriedly stood up, on the tenth of every month he receives rent to buy one month's food and today is the first so there will only be 10 days left of food. He doesn't dare to turn on the light so he uses the light from his phone to look around the house for food.

He was busy for half a day, making an inventory of all the food and materials. He was lazy and normally does not tidy the house so the house is a mess; he didn't even know what he had in the house. Zhang Xiao Qiang's food and materials are: 17 bags of instant noodles, 12 pounds of rice, two pieces of bacon weighing about 8 to 9 pounds, it was brought by his uncle and there is some fat that he didn't like to eat, 21 eggs, 2 pounds of noodles, 0.8 bag of salt, 1.5 barrels of bottled water, 16

cigarette packages and countless small plates. No vegetables but it should be able to last a month if I use it frugally.

Now that the food is secured, security needed to be considered. His house is a building from 97' and the building was soon to be demolished. He lived on the second floor with a platform at the front and the back. Outside there is a common area which is nearly 400 [TL: Raws didn't say 400 of what..], the platform had two structures with twenty five to twenty six steps which gave access to neighbouring platforms. There was a small platform for a garden, on which some people kept flowers, at the back is where is dad and a couple other neighbours built a courtyard with an iron grid. From the computer room one can see the courtyard through the window, and after he went to the front office, checking that the doors and windows are closed, all the windows of the front office have been covered with newspaper

After finishing, he sat down in a daze. There's no lack of electricity as the two hydroelectric dams should be able to guarantee at least several months of electricity. The internet should disconnect soon, so he should download some manuals on how to increase one's survivability at home. After thinking about it, he started.

For the Cabbage

TL: WhatTranslate,Niku

Editor:Niku

Zhang Xiao Qiang recovered, the half pack of instant noodles that he ate has been digested. He felt hunger even more strongly, so he had to force himself to not look at the desk that had the remaining instant noodles. He downed a glass of water, hoping that it can fill him up. Since the day of the crisis, half a month passed and everyday he woke up, reflecting. Is his current life a dream? The noodles are finished, the eggs are finished, there are 3 packs of instant noodles ; a pack for two and a half days and a pack for a day and a half. Before, he ate two bags plus two fried eggs as well.. He didn't dare go out to search for food nor did he have the strength to run.

Watching his stomach slowly flatten, he used to try to lose weight but he couldn't do it, but now he has already lost at least 5 pounds! That thought made him laugh, but also made him want to cry. Normally he doesn't care much, but he didn't know if his sister was alive or dead. He couldn't stop thinking about that, because there was nothing to do these past 2 weeks so he just reminisced past events. Thinking about back when his parents were all together at home, thinking about his teachers, the first time he was bullied, when naughty girl tried to draw a turtle on his back, thinking about his classmates, even thinking about the street corner where he bought breakfast from sister Ba Dong. He kept trying to call his sister's phone but no one picked up, he thought about the worst possible situations, but he did not give up hope for a miracle.

The zombies outside the window downstairs continued to wander, occasionally you could see nearby residents that are now infected. The streets were strewn with broken glass, torn clothes, some bones, different types of rubbish, there was also the burnt remains of a bus. A feeling of desolation gripped his heart when he thought about himself becoming a zombie, wandering the streets, when he thought about running out of food and starving to death, when he thought about close good friends becoming zombies and eating each other alive, the feelings of desolation quickly turned into feelings of despair. He numbly went to the kitchen and picked up a knife, slowly raising the knife to eye level. He was clutching the knife really hard to the point where his wrist hurts, but he couldn't plunge the knife into his heart. He put down the knife and held his head then slid to the ground with his back to the wall, tears were streaming down his face, he's so afraid of death that he didn't have the courage to kill himself.

He hated that he was useless, that he wasn't smart, that he can't do any work, can't even kill himself. He slowly calmed down, but then he thought about how 90% of people have mutated into zombies, and he was still alive! 6.3 billion people have been infected, and he was unharmed? Was this arranged by God? After thinking about it for a while he began to feel better, and looked at God's [TL: Its what it says in the raw] watch on his phone; it was about 10 o'clock, if he didn't want to starve to death he would have to go look for food. He would have to fight the zombies in fight or die situation. He went to the lobby and pulled aside the curtains, carefully ripping of a small piece of newspaper that he stuck onto the glass windows 2 weeks ago and looked out. He saw a few rows of cabbage in the middle of the garden platform, the sight caused him to start salivating. He observed the vicinity around the cabbages; there weren't many zombies on the platform, the two houses opposite have a greenhouse built between them, with the door open on the balcony. The door that was open had a few zombies going in and out, the stairs for the platform had a zombie walking up and down the stairs, there were 7 altogether 1 near the stairs and 6 across at the other 2 houses. It takes 3

minutes to walk from the other side, his goal was to reach the middle of the platform where the cabbage are.

Going bare-handed against the zombies is not an option, the house doesn't have any actual weapons, but he found the tools that his dad left behind. The first thing he saw was an 8 pound hammer, he lifted it and took a swing and shook his head; it was too heavy, he doesn't have the strength, he could swing it 3 to 5 times but not anymore. As he continued to look, he pulled out another hammer, the weight was more appropriate. Then he went to the kitchen and picked up a steel pot lid to be used as a shield. He practiced in the living room to get a feel for the weapons and after he was ready, he prepared to leave. When he reached the door he began to hesitate, putting his hand on the doorknob and dropping it repeatedly, he thought that he would rather die in battle than of starvation. He said to himself "if it was meant to be, it will work out for the better", and opened the door and went out.

Zhang Xiao Qiang planned to kill the zombie at the stairs first, as it was too close to the garden, then using the 1 minute that it will take for the zombies on the other side to reach he will take as much cabbage as possible. He was wearing army shoes, his dad's army overcoat, and thick leather gloves. Whilst the zombies haven't noticed, he quickly ran to the stairs. A zombie was coming up, noticing his scent the zombie rushed towards him threateningly. This was the first time he had seen the zombies up close; the skin was grey, the eyes were white and their mouth was wide enough to fit a fist. The mouth was filled with black teeth that were shaped like triangular knives, the sight gave him the chills. As a strong stench wafted over, he felt nauseous. The zombie hit the pot lid shield and the shock of the impact cause him to take a step back, then he snapped back into his senses and his fighting spirit returned.

He moved his shield to the right and kicked the zombie in the chest and

the zombie rolled down the stairs. There wasn't any time to think so he quickly ran to the garden and laid down his weapons. He took out a snakeskin bag and pulled out the cabbage from the soil, putting it in the bag. In his peripheral vision he could see the zombies from the opposite side slowly walking towards him. Faster, faster, he panted as he put the cabbages in his bag, he relentlessly reached into the dark soil to find the roots so he could pull out the cabbages. He didn't even feel the mud and leaf juice splashing into his eyes, he was only thinking of getting a few more, this was food, which is hope! The zombie was too close so he couldn't continue to be greedy. He needed to go, grabbing the bag with one hand and the weapons with another he desperately started running towards the house. He saw the corridor opening right ahead and picked up speed, entered the corridor and started running towards his house.

Suddenly the opposite iron door opened, his neighbour had turned into a zombie with a dense stench, it turned and threw itself at him. The sharp claws were less than 10 centimetres away from his eyes, a chill ran through him, he wanted to scream but he couldn't make a sound, two words formed in his mind:

"It's over"

He fell back onto the floor and his shield was knocked away, the zombie missed, his brain was empty, and he kicked the zombie's calf with both legs, throwing it off balance. As it fell towards him, he rolled to one side, using the hammer in his hand he hit the zombie's body again and again and again, when he came back to his senses, the upper half of the zombie's body was a bloody pulp, there was sticky black blood everywhere, with a strong stench that made his head feel like it was going to explode.

The platform on the opposite side of the zombie is only about 10 metres away from him. The 3 strong ones walked in front, behind them

was a mutated elderly lady slowly following behind. When they caught his scent, they became very excited, because there was potential prey nearby. He jumped up from the ground. There was not enough time to get back the shield, so he just brought the bag back home.

Locking his entrance door, he leant against the iron gate. He deeply retched and took a few deep breaths. Zombie blood splashed on his body. He couldn't stand the smell, so he promptly ran to the toilet to change clothes.

Zhang Xiao Qiang turned out the bag and neatly arranged it on the floor, there 11 cabbages, roughly 20 pounds. Outside the zombies were scratching the iron gate. Zhang Xiao Qiang for the first time, has confidence in continuing to live.

## Guard Dogs

On the 20th of January, at 7:30am, 2013, Zhang Xiao qiang's phone alarm woke him up. After he had gotten up, he went to the living room. There, he checked his inventory, 5 days ago, he risked his life in exchange for what was left was the greater half of a cabbage, 2-2.5kg of rice, and cigarettes which he is now out of. He was a chain smoker, the days that go by without cigarettes make him feel both unsatisfied and uncomfortable.

A loud "BANG" could be heard from across the room from the direction of the security door.

Starting 5 days ago, the zombies outside the door started to unrelentingly beat at steel security door. They craved for human flesh, as though they were a faithful dog waiting at his master at the door.

The room was filled with a dense stench, but fortunately Zhang Xiao Qiang had begun to used to it.

He went to the kitchen, and placed the rice and bacon with the remains of the cabbage into the wok and added water to allow for it to boil. He divided the meal 2 parts for 2 meals, one would be for his breakfast and the other would be for dinner.

After eating breakfast, Zhang Xiao Quan as usual, walked to the computer room and looked out the window, down onto the zombies. He looked down the end of the road, saw the dark dull sky and at some clouds which obscured his view. The grey clouds brought with them a cold draft. This left him with a unpleasant feeling leaving him with a hard time breathing.



He wishes a convoy would just appeared at the end of the road. The convoy would be camouflaged and full with rows of soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Their rifles would sweep the world of despair, sending the putrid zombies back to hell, sending them back to where they came from.

But all in all, fantasy is just fantasy, the zombies were still roaming the earth, and he still had to worry about the scarcity of food. With both hands on his head, he returned to the living room to prepare for today's physical training. A recluse like himself would gradually become weak, in order to survive he must desperately improve his physical fitness, even something small would be an improvement.

"47, 48.... 50"

...Zhang Xiao Qiang let out a deep breath with both his hands on the ground, he was tired as he had not exercised in a long time. He thought about the zombies that are still outside the house, the food inside the house was also running low. Zhang Xiao Qiang with both his hands on his head, took another deep breath, and began to start over.

He placed the 8 pound hammer down and used a towel to wipe the sweat off his brow. After 2000 Chinese leapfrogs and waving the hammer around 500 times, he felt tired and lightheaded. The food he ate for breakfast had already digested and his stomach began to growl.

Zhang Xiao Qiang laid on the couch, thinking about how he could solve the problem of the 6 zombies outside his house. He had lost his shield outside the door, and he had no defensive equipment to fight off the

zombies. The metal security door of the building can only be opened from the inside. He slowly opened the door a bit by bit. He thought to himself, even if he ate rice for several days to build up his strength, he could not take on all six by himself.

He couldn't think of a plan, Zhang Xiao Qiang with both hands on his head, began to scratch his scalp. He thought of various ideas, a whole range of them in fact, yet he still had no plan. While thinking he saw his pack of cigarettes on the table and instinctively picks them up and shook it, before remembering that it was empty since yesterday. He looked at the ash tray and took the cigarette butts. He took a blank white sheet of paper, split the cigarette butts and lined them carefully along the paper before rolling it.

He found a lighter and lit his makeshift cigarette, inhaled, and leaned against his couch, staring at the home landline phone while in a daze like state. He thought about how many months it had been since he had paid the telephone fees. 3 months or 4 months ? That pretty MM Telecom tower is probably filled with zombies now too. His phone also had 80 or so dollars in prepaid credit, all gone to waste, what a loss. Zhang Xiao Qiang mind filled with all sorts of ideas and he glanced back towards the telephone line.

"Wait".

Telephone line? Zhang Xiao Qiang stared at the telephone line, his heart filled with a glimpse of light. But he could not fully capture his idea.

He continues to look blankly at the telephone line, his mind began to pick up in speed. Telephone lines are uses apart from connecting calls are hanging clothes and drying blankets ... His heart lit up and he exclaimed

“It is to act as rope”. He paced back and forth before he found a rope, tied one end around the security door handle and made sure the other end was also fixed. This will ensure that he won't be attacked by zombies when he opens the door, and it will also so he can deal with the zombies one at a time.

Once he thought of this idea, he acted. Zhang Xiao Qiang went to the storage room and obtained a thin rope and tied it to the window's railing, and left 10cm distance from the door handle. The opening was too small to use the hammer as a weapon. Instead, Zhang Xiao Qiang found a galvanized water pipe approximately 1.5m, but after re-evaluating he thought that a blow would be too weak and wouldn't do harm.

Zhang Xiao Qiang continues to rummage through his dad's tool box, he feels a sigh or relief. Fortunately his father during the 60's would go to the countryside to dig ditches, 70's he owned a motor factory, and 80's opened his first small restaurant in a small town of Wan Yuan Hu. Unfortunately his father liked to play, fish, hunt and had no mind for his own business. The business was under a loan, but his rods and guns were owned by his father. There was also a period where there was a large crackdown on firearms in China. His father, in fear of being caught, threw his shotgun into the Yang Tze River. Although his father is now gone, his tools still remain.

“I found it”.

He rummaged out a triangular file. The file had not been used in a long time, yet its edge is still black metal with no rust, that is just the build quality from the 70's.

He uses another knife to cut the wooden handle of the file to fit the

water pipe. He used nails to attach wood securely the pipe to ensure that it would not come apart during a critical moment.

Everything was ready, Zhang Xiao Qiang checked his equipment and stationed himself at the door. His military outfit had finally been dried and cleaned, it would be a shame that it has to be dirtied again today. The water from the tap had already stopped flowing, he didn't expect to be able to do the laundry again.

He opens the door with his left hand and preps his spear with his right.

"bang".....

ZXQ closes the door behind him, it stinks out here, the zombie he killed the previous day had an overpowering stench, enough to almost make him not able to open his eyes.

He didn't have any masks at home, so he used a woolen scarf to cover his nose and mouth, and sprayed it with cologne to musk the smell of the zombies flesh.

He once again opened his door. Immediately a black claw scratched at his face. The zombie tried to force itself through the opening in the door. but this time Zhang Xiao Qiang was not scared, he looked carefully at the zombie. The zombies claw was like an eagles, its joints tightening with sharp finger nails. The zombies are desperately trying to enter the gap created by the door. Its appearance, it deep empty eyes and prominent cheekbones which were hard pressing against the iron door forcing/drilling its skull through the opening.

Zhang Xiao Qiang held the spear with both hands; the points of the triangular file pointed at the eyes of the zombie. He then shoved the spear into its eyes, using both hands to tightly hold the pipe, exerting all his strength to thrust outwards. The first time he used the spear he did not have enough grip strength, he only knew to thrust outwards. Then he went into a daze, but his body erupted with energy that came from deep within his being. He started to get excited, he felt like all the zombies were no match for him, and that he could kill them all.

Another 2 claws clawed at him through the door, the two claws swinging through the air before his eyes woke him from his daze. He pulled out the spear head, the zombies eyes turned into a dark hole, with dark sticky blood slowly flowing out of them. The zombie first fell onto the other zombies and then slowly onto the ground. The head of one zombie facing him didn't have pupil whites, another one just had blood dark blood flowing out of the holes. These two extreme contrasts gave Zhang Xiao Qiang chills.

"There are five more" he said to himself, he didn't look at the dead zombie

again.

He hasn't used a long spear before and he also didn't have good grip strength. He then used his superficial spearing technique to kill the remaining 5 zombies, until the last one was lying on the floor.

Clang!

Zhang Xiao Qiang did not lose grip and let the spear fall to the ground.

## For Food

Zhang Xiao Qiang was sitting on the floor panting heavily, with one leg stretched out, and the other leg bent. There was a 1.6 metre spear by his side, the triangular spearhead was pointing at the security gate. It was covered in old black foul blood. The green security gates were 7% open leaving a 10cm gap, from where he was sitting he could see several bodies quietly laid outside.

20 days ago they were humans, now they mutated into zombies lying outside.

'I killed them!!!'

He didn't feel any guilt from killing them, only the excitement of the victory.

"I did it" Zhang Xiao Qiang told himself.

"I can continue living, I will keep on living."

After sitting for 5 to 6 minutes he was done resting. Zhang Xiao Qiang picked up his spear and stood up. He untied the thin rope on the door and pushed the door open. There were zombie corpses pressing against the door.

Zhang Xiao Qiang used his spear to push the bodies out of the way before walking out. He observed the area; the corridor outside had 7

bodies strewn all across, he could barely even find an empty spot to take a step. The zombie that he killed 5 days ago was lying face down beneath his feet, with its entire head hammered into pulp and dark blood and yellow brains were splattered everywhere.

Zhang Xiao Qiang did not dare keep looking, he was afraid that if he did he would throw up.

Standing on the heap of corpses he felt a chill to his bones, even the cologne infused scarf could not stop the strong stench.

Zhang Xiao Qiang found the pot lid shield from 5 days ago and upon picking it up he felt a surge of confidence, even though it was useless against knives and guns, it was capable of blocking the zombies' claws.

Facing the door, he pushed it open. The house had no lights, the darkness made the air feel cool. He carefully walked to the opposite side of the living room, his body cast a shadow with the dull light shining on the white floor and his body felt a certain coolness. Zhang Xiao Qiang found the light switch for the living room and turned on the lights for the living room. Under the illumination he could finally feel comfortable. His goal was the kitchen, he dare not enter the other bedrooms, just in case he ran into a zombie and got scratched which would mean he was screwed.

He carefully approached the kitchen. Looking through someone else's home for something will never feel comfortable, I've never attempted burglary in the first half of my life, with the apocalypse Zhang Xiao Qiang had to become a thief.

Not making a sound he slowly approached the kitchen.

Zhang Xiao Qiang heard something scratch at the kitchen doors, his chest tightened, he was afraid of everything! Can God not give him some peace?

Zhang Xiao Qiang swore, he decided to just bite the bullet and hold out the pot lid in front of him. Using three fingers of his right hand to hold the body of the spear, he used the thumb and index finger to hold the door handle, gently turning and quickly pulling.

Woosh!

A dark shadow come out of the kitchen. Zhang Xiao Qiang held the shield with his left hand and pointed the spear at the shadow with his right hand, ready to attack.

After looking carefully it turned out to be the neighbour's fat cat, the black and orange spotted cat looked at him and ran out.

That cat made his heart flutter.

"Guess facing a cat is harder than facing a zombie". Zhang Xiao Qiang said to himself as he walked into the kitchen, there was a thin layer of dust on the imitation mahogany dinner table as no one cleaned the kitchen for 20 days. There were only a few plum flower shaped cat paw prints scattered across the table.

Zhang Xiao Qiang opened the fridge, some of the vegetables have



been left there for a while and is no longer fresh, but he didn't mind and packed them into his pouch. The vegetables and eggs above and the frozen fish and pork below were all taken by him. He also found half a barrel of rice in the kitchen, a jar of pickles, a bag of sugar and some other spices. Zhang Xiao Qiang had to make 2 trips from the kitchen to his house to move everything.

Looking at the food in the living room he felt like he was missing something, and thought of the alcohol and tobacco cabinet next to the TV across from the living room. Zhang Xiao Qiang quickly went and carried the tobacco and alcohol back.

Looking at the corpse outside the door, he thought of a way to get rid of it as it was too smelly. Zhang Xiao Qiang went out looking for a place to leave the body. He saw that the platform with the garden still had 30 more cabbages, now he could freely take them, the desperate situation from 5 days ago still felt like yesterday.

"Gah!!! this stupid virus, this stupid world"

After the apocalypse he had many emotions.

The cabbage isn't going to run away so he'll ignore them for now. He went to the platform stairs to see the zombie that he kicked down. Ever since he was attacked by the zombie from opposite of his house he has become careful every time he leaves the house. He slowly walked towards the stairway opening and looked down, at the bottom of the stairs a broken-legged zombie was crawling on the ground. His clothes had become pieces of cloth clinging to his body. It suddenly caught the scent of Zhang Xiao Qiang, and started crawling towards him.



Zhang Xiao Qiang sat on the platform and watched it slowly crawl from the lowest step. Upon smelling a fresh person, it excitedly opened its mouth, baring its sharp teeth, its claws leaving a trail on the cement.

A three point spearhead entered through its nose bridge and pierced the brain. The spearhead rotated left and right , after pulling it out, there was a cup sized hole in its face with dark blood dripping out.

Zhang Xiao Qiang became more and more accustomed to killing zombies, just like when he was younger he would sit in the corner killing ants, There was no excitement, no more fear, only a face of indifference was left. He knew he couldn't kill all 60 million zombies in the world, so he will only kill the ones that pose a threat to him.

At the bottom of the stairs there is a flower garden. In January the climate makes the vegetation in the garden more bleak; the few 20 year old vines only had a few old leaves and the lawn turns yellow. There are 3 cement plates that form the pavilion, it was a recreational area for the elderly from the 7 buildings, usually it is a popular place. Now there were 30+ zombies in the flower garden wandering around, the closest one was

more than 40 metres away. Looking at it until now, it still doesn't give a reaction, letting him know that you needed to be at least 40 metres away to be safe from a zombie.

There is also a canteen downstairs. Normally it would sell some alcohol, tobacco and condiments but it also sold some rice and eggs. At this point he dare not go there to look for food, because he would need to go through over 30 zombies!

The platform on the second floor has a garbage disposal. Normally this would serve two buildings. Zhang Xiao Qiang threw the seven bodies in there. It tired him out and he started to sweat but the problem was solved, but he would leave the one by the stairs, it was far from his home anyway so the stench wouldn't reach him.

Looking across the platform he saw the two families' houses still open. With some hesitation, by now the units left and right of those are likely to have zombies, and each house had a security gate, so he had no way of opening them. Upon thinking of that, he made a decision. Holding on to the shield and spear, he started heading towards that direction...

Zhang Xiao Qiang returned to his house's security gate and placed a pouch at the side of the gate. A filled backpack and a bulging snakeskin bag; these were the rewards for going across the platform. He didn't face any zombies, come to think of it, the six zombies he killed makes up their whole family. Zhang Xiao Qiang quickly dragged the two bags to the sofa to start preparing an inventory of today's rewards.

## Harvest, Weapons

I poured myself a cup of water and lit a cigarette made from the harvest of Taishan, then inhaled deeply. A 18 dollar smoke was better than the 5 dollar yellow fruit tasting one.

Squinting, while sitting on the sofa and facing the pile of goods, I felt carefree. The smoke curls dance in the air with my thoughts. I was only a recluse, an ordinary person with ordinary thoughts, without any grand ideals. I never thought about becoming a self-sacrificing righteous hero to save mankind.

I like Mencious' quote: "I like life indeed, but there is that which I like more than life, and therefore, I will not seek to possess it by any improper ways. I dislike death indeed, but there is that which I dislike more than death, and therefore there are occasions when I will not avoid danger. If among the things which man likes there were nothing which he liked more than life, why should he not use every means by which he could preserve it? If among the things which man dislikes there were nothing which he disliked more than death, why should he not do everything by which he could avoid danger? There are cases when men by a certain course might preserve life, and they do not employ it; when by certain things they might avoid danger, and they will not do them. Therefore, men have that which they like more than life, and that which they dislike more than death. They are not men of distinguished talents and virtue only who have this mental nature. All men have it; what belongs to such men is simply that they do not lose it.

Here are a small basket of rice and a platter of soup, and the case is one in which the getting them will preserve life, and the want of them will be death;— if they are offered with an insulting voice, even a tramper will not

receive them, or if you first tread upon them, even a beggar will not stoop to take them.

And yet a man will accept of ten thousand chung, without any consideration of propriety or righteousness. What can the ten thousand chung add to him? When he takes them, is it not that he may obtain beautiful mansions, that he may secure the services of wives and concubines, or that the poor and needy of his acquaintance may be helped by him? In the former case the offered bounty was not received, though it would have saved from death, and now the emolument is taken for the sake of beautiful mansions. The bounty that would have preserved from death was not received, and the emolument is taken to get the service of wives and concubines. The bounty that would have saved from death was not received, and the emolument is taken that one's poor and needy acquaintance may be helped by him. Was it then not possible likewise to decline this? This is a case of what is called— "Losing the proper nature of one's mind.

I'm not presenting myself as a saint. I was a selfish man, I just wanted to live through these apocalyptic days, being able to wake up everyday to this stench in the air is kind of a blessing of its own.

Counting all the food and supplies: Around 5 pounds of rice, roughly 20 pounds of pork, 2 fresh fish weighing about 1 pound, all the dried seafood added together is around 3 pounds, there are 47 eggs, a jar of pickles, a variety of vegetables and some of a roast chicken and a roast duck and about 7 to 8 pounds of orange halves. Soy sauce, cooking wine, not including other seasonings, 12 packs of Taishan cigarettes, 20 packs of Blue Box Yellow Crane cigarettes, 1 and a half River red cigarettes and 15 packs, with a total of 47 cigarette packs. Two bottles of Rice Flower white wine, a bottle of Great wall Cabernet red wine. 2 bags of milk powder, 6 bottles of drinks, 22 bottles of mineral water, several types of

medicinal drugs, and other living essentials.

With all the living essentials in one place, I rubbed my hands together and reached into my bag, pulling out a crossbow, a binoculars and an army knife.

When going across the platform to search for supplies, I entered a house filled with pictures of firearms, so the owner of the room must have been in the military. I found the crossbow and knife in one of the cabinets and the binoculars was hanging on the wall. I don't really know how to use a crossbow, but i found an instructions manual for it.

MP9 Military Counter Sniper Crossbow:

Tensile Strength: 48kg

Range: 180m, effective range above 100m

Net Weight: 4.6kg

Gross Weight: 5kg

Main part material:

Notch: Imported customized notch material

Trigger System: Customized High wear-resistant material

Bow Frame: American imported customized frame material

Support: Crossbow butt customized plastic material

Equipped with 1 spare string, a large crossbow bag, a bright LED light, a laser sight, four setting mechanical sight, a 432 optical sight, a set of tools for the crossbow, 3 long arrows, 1 bag of steel balls, 2 calibration arrows, 4 standard arrows.

I used my leg to press against the string on the MP9, put on a ball and aimed it at a calendar 5 metres away, turned off the safety, pulled the trigger:

"Bang..."

The MP9 kicked back, hitting my shoulder blade. Almost unable to hold on to the crossbow, I rubbed my shoulders and looked at the calendar. The heads of the models on the calendar are gone and the ground was scattered with bits of paper.

I took down the calendar, cement residue continued to gradually fall onto the ground. There was a hole as wide as a cup in before my eyes, a slightly deformed steel ball was embedded in the wall, *whistle...* I took a breath of cold air.

"It was so fast..."

"It was so strong..."

If a zombie was hit in the head at this distance, I'm afraid the skull will fly off, I thought.

My shoulder still ached, I slowly stroked the crossbow with my fingertips, like touching a girl's delicate skin, afraid that using too much strength would hurt it. A full body paint with a light reflection, like a girl's beautiful lips, free a little mystery and temptation. (Writing this I felt like vomiting, remember that weapons are really important during an apocalypse).

I will use the MP9 counter sniper crossbow later. I put it down and picked up the binoculars, it is a silver high powered pair of binoculars, on the instruction manual it says:

Bushnell binoculars technical binocular 120150, technical details are:  
Model Number: 10x50mm binoculars magnification: 10x magnification,  
lense diameter: 50mm, size type: Standard, Focus type: centre spotlight,  
prism system: Roof prism system, mirror type: BaK-4 lense coating, film  
type: multi-layer coated rainguard lense, waterproof coating: none, field  
range: 1000 metres with 114 metres minimum, focus distance: 5.5 metres  
upwards, pupil diameter: 5mm outwards, pupil distance: 18mm, mirror  
cover type: scalable, weight: 865g, Waterproof protection: Tripod  
attachment: available.

I removed the cover and went to the window and looked out with the binoculars. The sky was still dark, the dark clouds made me feel depressed. Then I caught sight of the zombies downstairs, looking at their sharp teeth in its mouth, it was almost like i could smell the stench of his mouth.



I stood by the window observing, 20 days have passed since the infection and the zombie has started to transform into a mummy. Its hair become more and more scarce, the flesh and blood slowly disappeared leaving only a wrinkled old skin, but the zombie's walking speed is still not fast. Having no sense of vision, they bump into walls and cars and other obstacles before changing direction. Many zombies' shoes after 20 days of nonstop use began to wear away, some zombies have shoes on one foot and are going barefoot on the other, hobbling along with one foot higher than the other.

My home is far from the centre of the city, so the surrounding buildings aren't very high, the highest is 8 floors and the population density is relatively smaller, there is only enough space for 4 cars across the road. There are probably a couple hundred zombies wandering around the 1000metres radius around my house on the road.

I observe my surroundings, the hand holding my binoculars became heavier and heavier and my arm began to ache holding it. Eventually the food in the house will run out and I will have to find a way to get to the city. There will be hundreds of zombies around the area where i live, once again rendering me helpless.

I look towards the centre of the city, a pillar of smoke appearing within my view on the binoculars!!!

A dark pillar of smoke rose up, filling the air in this apocalyptic atmosphere, coloring the bleak sky. The thick smoke rose out of Zhang Xiao Qiang's vision, he knew something had happened there. Curiosity like a cat, was pulling at his heart. Looking at this watch, it was 3:40pm. It was less than 2 hours from dark, so there was enough time for him to go to roof and find out what it was.

Zhang Xiao Qiang held the army knife and stored it in the sheath. The laces beneath the sheath was firmly secured onto his thigh, and after taking 2 steps, making sure it does not affect his movement, he picked up his shield, spear and binoculars and headed out.

He carefully climbed up the stairs. Zhang Xiao Qiang stayed on the 2nd floor. The roof was above the 8th floor. He carefully took slow steps up the stairs. Reaching the third floor entrance, he tried to open the security gates of tenants of the third floor, but as he thought they were all deadlocked. At least he doesn't need to worry about zombies rushing out of the house.

Zhang Xiao Qiang slowly continued up, trying the door handles on each level, all the way to the eighth floor. This allowed him to relax, the apartment he lives on is secure, all the zombies are locked into the houses. When he went past the houses he could hear the zombies scratching at the doors. His smell caused the zombies to more aggressively scratch the doors. The sharp claws scratching the metal doors made a sharp scraping sound, which made him feel uncomfortable.

The owner of the eighth floor sealed the floor off with iron railings. The locked iron gate could only fit one person at a time. Zhang Xiao Qiang tried to use the spearhead to pry open the gate, but it didn't work. He carefully checked under the iron gate, there was a lot of rust at the edge of the gate, and it was locked really tightly. At the side of the lock you could only fit something the thickness of an ID card.

Zhang Xiao Qiang grew anxious, he was considering whether he should go downstairs to look for more tools. Looking at the gate, he knocked on it with his hand, and realised that the iron gate was very thin. The owner wanted to save materials, so he used a sheet of galvanized iron and soldered it onto a triangular steel frame to make the gate, there weren't many solder points! He breathed a sigh of relief, this is going to be easy!!!

He pulled out the army knife and stabbed it into the iron sheet pulling it outwards,

"Tah..."

One of the sheets corners had been released. He continued to use the knife to cut, until he created enough space for him to enter.

Zhang Xiao Qiang entered the roof on the top floor, there was construction materials scattered across floor of the roof; bricks, sand, cement, various types of PPR pipes, and PVC tubes. Looks like the owner of the 8th floor was trying to secretly build another room on the roof as there was a row of red brick wall that was half built.

Three zombies suddenly emerged from behind the wall, 1 in the front and 2 behind. They were facing Zhang Xiao Qiang and rushed towards

him, the one in front was even holding a tile knife!

"FUUUUCK!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang yelled, he left without burning incense, bad luck.

He turned and ran for 2 steps, and then stopped with both legs!!!

"If I run now, what will I do next time, there are only three, what is there to be afraid of!!!"

Blood rushed to Zhang Xiao Qiang's brain stirring him up. He turned to face the first zombie that was running towards him. His left hand desperately holding onto the shield, the right hand holding the spear. His was mouth taking deep, rapid breaths, and his eyes were fixed on the figure of the zombie.

He saw that the zombie had skinny cheeks and an exaggerated mouth. Upon making contact with the zombie, his right hand tightly gripped the spear and thrust it in an arc, suddenly, hitting the zombie's calf.

"Kaca..." the sound of breaking bones rang out

"Kathump..." the zombie had fallen to the ground

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't bother with the fallen zombie. He started jogging towards the remaining 2 zombies that were rushing towards him. 2 zombies, one on the left and one on right, they were 5 to 6 metres away from each other. He rushed towards the zombie on the left. The palms of the hand holding the spear started to sweat, his heart was beating

violently, making it difficult for him to breathe.

"2 metres, 1 metre, now!!!"

Holding the potlid in his left hand tightly on the left of his chest, he used his shoulder up against the pot lid to bash into the zombie. An enormous force went from his shoulder to his wrist, it felt like fire spreading along his hand. The pot lid was extremely dented and it was no longer recognisable.

There was no time to think, taking the opportunity that the zombie was on the ground, Zhang Xiao Qiang threw away the damaged iron pot lid, and gripped the spear with both hands, rushing at the remaining zombie nearby. The left leg of the zombie bent forwards, revealing the nasty stab wound from the spear.

"Poof.."

The triangular spearhead stabbed into the zombie's throat, going through his neck and out the back of his head. Zhang Xiao Qiang rotated the spear left and right, the spearhead mincing the flesh and bones of the zombie's neck region and was pulled out easily. A hole was left where the spear stabbed. What was left of the skull, flesh and bones was dangling at the back, and fell to the ground.

"puff.." Zhang Xiao Qiang let out a breath of air, he aimed at the brain, but hit the neck? this skill is still too weak!

Zhang Xiao Qiang stepped away from the zombie falling, then ran

behind the zombie with the broken leg. He mustered his strength and stomped his back to preventing further movement. Using his arm strength, the spear entered its brain from the back from its head, he turned the spear to release it and the zombie no longer moved. The spearhead was covered with smelly yellow brain juice.

"There is still one left."

Zhang Xiao Qiang turned around and the last one rushed towards him. He wanted to test out an idea, to try to find other weaknesses of the zombies other than the head, so he walked around the zombie, leading it around, then took the opportunity to break both its arms.

The zombie was repeatedly stabbed by the spear in the body, the zombie's clothes have already been reduced to cloth scraps, and the dry black body was littered with holes; heart, liver, lungs, have all been punctured to a pulp. The zombie ignored all of this and continued, like a mad dog he used both his broken arms to try and chase him and bite him. Experiment complete, the spear stabbed the stench producing big mouth, pulling out the teeth in his mouth. He got out tissues from his pocket and wiped the sweat off his face, he was calming down.

"Fuck, 1 versus 3, he actually did it, he really did it, 5 days ago facing even 1 made him deathly afraid. Today he killed exactly 10, of those 3 were face front on with no fancy tactics!"

Zhang Xiao Qiang felt a wave of relief: "who said being a recluse was useless, I'm alive, and I will continue to live on, and I will live even better" he told himself.

His excitement slowly become calmness, Zhang Xiao Qiang looked at this watch, its was now 4:31. Climbing the stairs took around 10 minutes and unlocking the door took around 20 minutes. Killing the zombies, doing the experiment, and finding the core brain didn't take longer than 10 minutes, even though there wasn't much other than brain fluid in the skull of the zombies.

He remembered the reason he came up the stairs, so he went to walls of the roof, bringing up the 10x magnification binoculars and looked to where the smoke was. Its been around 30 minutes, the smoke had thinned. In the lens of the binoculars he could see an overturned medium sized van, there were hundreds of zombies gathered around the van. The front of the van crashed into the flowerbed, the van was still on a weak fire. In front of the truck there was a bus and a medium sized truck that crashed together, and there were many small cars behind the van, two car frames and many cars were scattered along the road,

Once everything was clear, a van rushed out of the city filled with survivors trying to escape the city. Due to how the road was blocked and the van was travelling at high speed, so the van probably rolled when braking, some survivors burned to death in the car, the others were thrown out of the car to become zombie dinner.

Seeing all this, Zhang Xiao Qiang felt some nausea. This is a zombie apocalypse, all the survivors are like hungry mice trying to earn themselves a ray of light under stressful conditions. At least he was lucky, the food in his home is enough for another 2 months. As to what will happen after 2 months?

"Lets just get through these 2 months, I'll cross the bridge when I get there"

Zhang Xiao Qiang shook his head, and with the typical mindset of a recluse he went back downstairs calmly. When he went downstairs the sky began to rain!!!



## Zombies That Love The Rain

31st Jan 2013, Thursday, the virus outbreak happened a month ago. It has been 11 days since Zhang Xiao Qiang returned from the roof. He was now training, doing 3000 leapfrogs instead of 2000, increased number of push ups, sit-ups, high leg lifts etc. Right now his main weapon was the spear and his ranged weapon was the MP9 sniper crossbow. It doesn't matter if it was melee or ranged, he was ready. Only by increasing his training, can he continue to live in these more and more difficult times.

Rushing forwards, he used his waist to thrust the spear in his arm. Once, then again, and again, ten thousand times of practice in 11 days. This made Zhang Xiao Qiang become more proficient at the spear. The practice everyday made his belly bulge disappear, there were even traces of muscle on his chest. The high leg movements made his body more flexible, so at least he doesn't run out of breath after a running a few steps.

Thinking back to when he first started, large amounts of exercise made Zhang Xiao Qiang's body ache all over. Now after a week, even though it's the apocalypse, his physical state has never been better, he can't even remember how many years it's been since he last exercised!

Everyday he sweated a lot, making Zhang Xiao Qiang's water reserves gradually deplete, so he couldn't shower and his body started to let off a stench. It made him feel a little uncomfortable, but he didn't care, he was used to the stench, what could be worse than the smell of a corpse?

"huff..." Zhang Xiao Qiang put his spear down, picked up a water bottle and unscrewed the cap, took a sip in his mouth, then he gurgled it for a

while before swallowing. Although he felt thirsty, he put the cap back on and put the bottle back on the table. He looked at his watch, it was 5pm, due to habit he picked up his binoculars and went to look out the window.

There has been a heavy rain since 11 days ago till now, the sky was mostly black with some patches of light, this made the window hazy, and the zombies downstairs were standing still like telephone poles, the whole street looked like a strange landscape.

Using the binoculars he saw the zombies open their mouths to catch rainwater, and although he couldn't see the facial features of the zombies, he felt like the zombies really liked rainwater, it seems as if even their need for flesh has decreased.

This is a strange feeling, Zhang Xiao Qiang has never had any kind of sixth sense, he also thought that a sixth sense was nonsense, but now this feeling randomly started to form in his mind. His subconscious decided that this feeling was true, so he put down the binoculars, patted his face, wanting to forget this strange feeling that this mindset was giving!

Picking up the soft shell of the Yellow Crane cigarette and lighting it, he sat on his bed and stared at the smoke rings in a daze. The strange feeling did not disappear but became even more intense. Zhang Xiao Qiang suddenly thought of something to try, and in that moment his urge for violence overtook his mind. He stood up to look for a raincoat.

After putting on the raincoat, Zhang Xiao Qiang took his spear and went outside. He walked downstairs to the first floor, the 11 days of heavy rain caused some water to start pooling and the heavy rain flushed out the stench in the air. He took a deep breath, it felt like it had been years

since he smelt this kind of air with no stench. Even though there was no smell, the air had an additional smell that tasted like rust.

The zombies were also standing in the garden in the rain, with their mouths open catching water. Zhang Xiao Qiang tiptoed towards the garden, the rain kept falling and he caused many ripples in the puddles that he stepped on. When he stepped in the water it caused a small wave to blossom which turned into a large ripple.

“30m, 20m, he got closer and closer to the zombie, his heartrate increased, carrying the spear with 2 hands tighter and tighter, with two deep breaths, he rushed at the zombie. 10m, 5m, 2m... ”

Zhang Xiao Qiang stood within 2 metres of the zombie, he raised the head of his spear in case the zombie lunged at him. He carefully observed: the zombie did not appear to care about Zhang Xiao Qiang standing next to him, it just continued to catch the rainwater with his head. He noticed that after the zombies were drenched in rain for a few days, their skinny cheeks became rounder, their claws also had more meat, and he couldn't really see their bones.

Zhang Xiao Qiang took two steps back and looked around using the dim light. The number of zombies in the garden had increased from 30 to about 40, many zombies in the hallways and houses walked out, and were outside in the rain.

Zhang Xiao Qiang saw this and was taken aback, he was ready to run. He raised the spearhead against the zombie, and ten thousand practices of this assassination technique led to this day. He stabbed the spear into the eye of the zombie, and then pulled it out. The zombie fell to the ground and made a big splash in the puddles.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was afraid of waking the other zombies and started to run. After running 10 metres he looked back, all the zombies quietly were standing there. He felt a rush of excitement: killing zombies that don't move is even more fun!!!

Seeing the sky getting darker and darker, Zhang Xiao Qiang rushed over.

The 21st zombie had fallen from Zhang Xiao Qiang's spear, and the route to the canteen had finally been cleared. Visibility was rapidly decreasing so he had to take this opportunity.

He rushed to the front door of the canteen, he wanted to become the zombie's boss, Zhang Xiao Qiang rushed in, he felt around and couldn't find the light switch. He found a large carton, he will put whatever he finds in there. In the end he found a couple boxes of cigarettes. He strapped 2 buckets of mineral water and strapped it with a braided belt to the spear, using it to bring it back to his house.

Carrying the water and other supplies on the spear felt like climbing a mountain. Zhang Xiao Qiang could barely breathe, with the galvanized pipe on his shoulder, the burning pain did not stop. He clenched his teeth and walked home one step at a time; he could barely see the path already. The heavy rain was still going, a month's worth of rainwater poured down the neck of the raincoat, gradually reducing his body temp.

Only with persistence, and even with his legs staring to give out, the arms carrying the spear started to tremble. He gained a second wind and ran to the house, finally reaching the platform. Seeing the house seemed

to help regain some of his strength, he used this last bit of strength and rushed into the corridor.

With one foot in the corridor and the other still outside, his body could no longer hold on. With the supplies on the spear, he dropped it onto the ground. Zhang Xiao Qiang lied on the floor, panting desperately for air. He turned around, lying on the cement ground, looking at the stairs and the ceiling, continuing to pant.

After 7 to 8 minutes his breathing slowed, and he sat up against the wall. Mineral water, rice, lobster sauce, canned fish, various biscuits and cigarettes scattered around him.

"ha! haha! hahahahaha....."

Zhang Xiao Qiang laughed loudly, he didn't stop laughing. The laughter continuously rang out, and tears started streaming down his face, the tears ran across his cheek onto his chin and dropped into the raincoat.

Infected?

TLN: Sorry guys, looking at this chapter, we believe that white wine is actually Vodka, hence it has now been changed.

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Zhang Xiao Qiang wiped away the tears on his face, stood up and collected the scattered things around him. The rain was still heavy; all that could be heard was the pitter patter of rain.

He wasn't thinking of anything, he was just mechanically putting the materials away one by one in the living room.

"Pa..." He closed the iron gate, and then Zhang Xiao Qiang returning to awareness. He still had his raincoat on, the rain water was dripping off the bottom of the raincoat, the clothes inside were all wet, and the cold made him start to shiver.

Zhang Xiao Qiang changed his clothes, he was sitting down wrapped in blankets, his heater was set to maximum. The crimson light from the heater reflected off his face, the light was like countless small needles pricking his face, but he still couldn't dispel the cold that reached deep within his bones. Zhang Xiao Qiang was wrapped in the blanket and shivering, the rain outside the window was still falling.

Thinking back to when he found the vodka "Vodka can get rid of the cold". He dug it out from the bottom of the boutique bag <<Rice flower>>. He removed the cap with a "pop", and poured 52° Vodka (That's the brand name) into his mouth. The vodka had a strong taste that

caused Zhang Xiao Qiang to almost spit it out, he swallowed it with difficulty, feeling a tingling. The vodka was like hot oil, burning along his throat all the way to his heart, he could feel the heat from his throat to the his heart.

The coldness he felt in his bones slowly dissipated, he turned the heater down. Zhang Xiao Qiang was wrapped in the blanket staring at the heater in a daze.

Zhang Xiao Qiang's hunger caused him to get up for food, he got out of bed and went to living room, pulling out a box of wafers. He opened the packaging, and a cockroach fell out of the box. It fell on the ground and began to climb, without thinking he stepped towards the cockroach.

An empty bottle of water was placed on the computer desk, the cap was tightly closed, there were 2 air holes on the cap. The cockroach was lying motionless quietly in the bottom of the bottle. Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't end up stepping on it, he just decided to keep it in a bottle, without giving it food. He wanted to know how long it would last without food.

In this city of despair, Zhang Xiao Qiang was like living a life of a refugee, without hope, without future. Other than the zombies downstairs there was only this cockroach to accompany him, lonely, like a beast, the thought keep lingering in his mind, like poison, continuously eroding his soul.

Zhang Xiao Qiang sometimes thought if he was the only one left, so, he was earth's king, a king of 1.

"If you cant stand being alone, then you'll have to learn to be alone."

Zhang Xiao Qiang ate rice crackers, while planning how long his current supplies would last, he contemplated using the rain to escape this city, it was too bad he didn't know how to drive, or steal a car.

"Go out?" Zhang Xiao Qiang shook his head, to dispel the thought. Not knowing how long this rain will last, he didn't know if all zombies liked the rain. He didn't know where he can go, he has only ever been to WH city and X city once for his sister's wedding.

He unknowingly finished a box of wafers, with his mouth dry, he picked up a bottle of mineral water and poured a large mouthful, and swallowed it, feeling weak.

Zhang Xiao Qiang set the plastic bottle on the ground, his whole body started twitching, his heart felt like it was being pounded by a hammer over and over again. He wanted to scream loudly, but he couldn't make a sound, he could only produce soft huffing noises, his internal organs felt like they had been hit with a red hot iron ball. He continuously felt his entire body on fire, his stomach had been lit. The flames felt like they were spreading from the inside to the outside, the skin on his hands became red, Zhang Xiao Qiang felt so much pain like he was about to die. He never had been subjected to so much pain before, for the first time, he felt like dying, so he could end the suffering.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was lying on the ground, hitting the floor tile with his head repeatedly, blood flowed to his eye, he couldn't see clearly, everything was a shade of crimson. Zombies, food, survival... none of it was important. He just wanted to end this intense pain, even if it means taking his own life, but all he could do was hit his head on the ground



and hope he would faint.

He didn't know how many hours it had been, or maybe it was minutes, but the pain ended. Zhang Xiao Qiang opened his eyes, his face was covered with a mix of blood, tears and snot, his body was curled like a cooked shrimp, his body was still convulsing, and his jaw was closed tightly.

The plastic bottle in his hands had been crushed into a ball, the water flowed from the bottle onto his body, sprinkling on the ground. His recently changed clothes were now soaked in blood and water.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was cold, he wanted to go to the heater, but he didn't have any strength left, and his cold body was getting increasingly heavy. His eyes began to blur and his mind was getting drowsy.

"Is it over?" Zhang Xiao Qiang murmured, "I'm going to see dad and mum!!!"

Zhang Xiao Qiang woke up in severe pain, the burning sensation started to cause him to begin convulsing, he didn't know how many times its been. Every time he also felt cold to the bone, then he would wake up to this burning sensation all over, not knowing how many times its been, not knowing what time it is, if hell exists, he was would already be in it.

The pain and cold continued without reducing, but then Zhang Xiao Qiang's nerves were starting to numb, he kept passing out and waking up again, but unlike before his mind was blank, he didn't know anything, anything!

"The rain definitely had the virus, I must have swallowed some of the rain. " Zhang Xiao Qiang couldn't stop thinking. The cold once again started to spread throughout his body, even the blood in his body started to clot.

"Have I been infected? Becoming a zombie is this painful? Zhang Xiao Qiang continued to think, the coldness became stronger, and his thinking began to slow.

"Mutating into a zombie takes 45 minutes, hasn't it been time already? Its taking so long!!!" he thought, going faint.

"Quickly mutate into a zombie...." and then darkness.

1st Feb 2013 7:30, his mobile phone alarm rang, Zhang Xiao Qiang was awoken by the ringing of the alarm. He opened his eyes, he was still in a blur, he found himself lying on the living room floor. He wanted to stand, but his body didnt have the strength, he used his hands to prop himself up. Zhang Xiao Qiang sat up, and then he remembered the events of the previous night.

"Am I a zombie?" Zhang Xiao Qiang quickly checked his fingers, his fingernails were trimmed neatly, he touched his teeth. "They're flat..." he said. "I didn't become a zombie!!" his body gained some strength, and Zhang Xiao Qiang struggled and got up, walking to his bedroom. The figure in the mirror looked broken, his hair that had been unwashed for a while was tangled, his face was bloodstained, his eyes were smaller, but he could still clearly see the black brown pupil.

Not becoming a zombie didn't make Zhang Xiao Qiang that happy, naturally he wasn't depressed, after experiencing the hell that was yesterday, he was in a neutral mood. He looked out the window, the rain had stopped!!

## Evolution?

Ever since 9 days ago, after the deathly experience from the D Virus, after a week of self-care, his body had almost recovered. He slowly recovered the strength to start training. Even though he had that nightmare that was a life or death situation, his body was still the same. He didn't become stronger, he didn't become more flexible, Zhang Xiao Qiang still couldn't see without his glasses. Thinking of those characters from novels that were infected by a virus, didn't they get special powers and after finding a space to mess around with it, then they became heroes going around the world looking for zombies to fight, why wasn't his life good like that?

After experiencing the D Virus he wanted to kill himself, his body was weak for a week, he couldn't even hold a rice bowl.

"Gahh!!!!!! Zhang Xiao Qiang sighed deeply, same circumstance but different life!!!!

"huff! huff! huff! huff!" Zhang Xiao Qiang gasped, the spear thrust forward and retracted again and again. His forehead sweat profusely, gathering at the scar, stinging a little. He kept thrusting the spear, trying to use as much of his energy as possible, just make himself a little stronger for survival.

He put down the spear and rubbed his aching wrist, and picked up the mineral water from the table and took a large gulp. "ha!!!" he felt refreshed, even though it was an apocalypse, Zhang Xiao Qiang feels like himself right now compared to before, was getting through life with much more enjoyment. He exercised everyday after waking up, has

breakfast, does 5000 thrusts, has lunch, takes a nap, practices thrusts again, has dinner, plays a single player game then sleep! Even he didn't know how to appreciate his previous collections anymore.[TLN: ? Porn stash?] His physical fitness was getting better and he was losing weight.

"Man! It was forced out of me!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang sighed.

As usual, he went to the window and looked through it with his binoculars. It was already a kind of habit, other than the zombies there wasn't much of a view to see. Using the binoculars he could see up to the zombie's nose, seeing its every move clearly.

Even though it had rained for over 10 days, the sky was still so gloomy and dull. There were black gray clouds cascading, blocking the winter sun. Only a few weak rays of light shone through, illuminating the city.

"Could it be that it was starting to evolve?"

Zhang Xiao Qiang was holding the binoculars, even with the rain from the last few days it wasn't able to clean the streets. Broken bones, shards of glass and broken bottles were scattered everywhere.

Thinking of that day when it was raining, he could feel a dull pain, not only did the rain contain some of the virus, it also had a strong corrosive effect. The steel fence outside the window had become rusty, if he didn't look at them everyday, Zhang Xiao Qiang would have thought that it was corroded by water vapour for more than 10 years. Turns out it was the rain, could it be that it was the acid rain?

The corrosive water falling onto the zombies clothes left them wandering around in tattered clothing, all that was left was some fragmented rags on the zombies body.

The zombies on the street were still wandering around as usual, their walking was a bit more flexible, their fingernails on the claws were a little longer. Some zombies looked taller and stronger, their walks were no longer staggered. It looked no different from a normal person walking, naked, with black translucent skin, pushing down many zombies that were walking in front of it, but this didn't affect it at all. Some other zombies were more skinny, their bodies became smaller, but also became more agile, with more flexible joints. It was already able to climb some small obstacles, their nails were longer, double the length of ordinary zombies.

Zhang Xiao Qiang felt a chill in his heart, the zombies are beginning to evolve. Did mankind have any hope left? He gripped his binoculars, with both hands until the blood started to recede, and his fingers turned green.

Putting down the 10x binoculars, his mouth was left with a bitter taste, he lit a cigarette and deeply inhaled then slowly exhaled. Leaning on the windowsill all he felt was decadence.

After a few days of observations, Zhang Xiao Qiang saw that downstairs had roughly 200 zombies. There were 9 evolved zombies; 3 agile ones and 6 strong ones. The mutation rate was about 5 percent. Since the Y city had roughly 500,000 people, there should be 25000 evolved zombies. China had a population of roughly 1.5 billion, there should be 75,000,000 evolved zombies, with the world having 7 billion people? he shuddered... not daring to do the calculation.

Zhang Xiao Qiang leaned on the window sill, blankly staring at the zombies downstairs. Beneath his feet were many cigarette butts. he remembered watching an American movie, <<Dancing with wolves>>, the hero lieutenant Dunbar lost contact with the outside world. Living in a vast grassy plains, living a peaceful and monotonous life, with only a wolf that had 2 white front legs with him.

He was in a better situation than Zhang Xiao Qiang. He had a whole field, but Zhang Xiao Qiang was trapped by countless zombies in his living room. The wolf's name was "Two White Socks" and it liked scampering around, while Zhang Xiao Qiang had "Nameless Cockroach" quietly lying at the bottom of a bottle.

Zhang Xiao Qiang picked up the mineral bottle and looked at it. The cockroach was still playing dead at the bottom, shaking the bottle, the cockroach started crawling around at the bottom, trying to climb out, falling back down again and again. Zhang Xiao Qiang quietly watched, feeling some sorrow for the cockroach, but more sorrow for himself, he was not different from the cockroach in the bottle, bound by their own destiny.

Watching the cockroach filled his heart with boredom, he suddenly wanted to go the roof, to look at the sky, the ground, and the city and the Yangtze river at the edge of the city!!!

So he did, he fastened the knife, hung up the binoculars and picked up his spear. Climbing up the stairs, the rooms that had zombies smelled Zhang Xiao Qiang and started scratching at the door. On the stairs to the roof, looking out to the vast world, his depression slowly faded away. The sky and earth was still so dark, in the distance he could see building

rooftops with zombies wandering, only the Yangtze river was still the same, quietly flowing.

Looking at this he was ecstatic. "dong... dong... dong..." the sound of the heavy object reached Zhang Xiao Qiang's ears,

"It came from downstairs. " Zhang Xiao Qiang decided.

Putting the binoculars away and picking up his spear, he went down. "dong... dong.. dong..." the sound became clearer and the sound grew louder.

"7th floor, 6th floor, 5th floor, should be here."

The door near the stairs were violently shaking, it was almost like there was a rhino banging at the door. The gates were violently trembling and putty around the frame and the paint started to fall onto the floor, the space in the corridor was too small, Zhang Xiao Qiang wanted to go downstairs first.

Thinking of main characters in novels, the one that killed zombies not melon slices [TLN: ???], reaching a point like this needed extreme caution, truly speechless with a thousand silent tears!!

[TLN: May be an idiom, not sure. 想到起点小说里的主角们, 那一个杀丧尸不是杀瓜切菜般的, 怎么到了他这就得小心翼翼再小心, 真是无语泪千行啊!!!]

Zhang Xiao Qiang tried to rush down to the 5th floor, "Tong..." the gate



had opened, caught by surprise the gate flung open towards him, hitting him with full force, his mouth could taste some sweetness as it filled with blood. A tall dark figure pounced towards him, his mind had no time to think, his body fell to the ground.

“kuuhhh... squeeaaak” the metal gate next to Zhang Xiao Qiang made a loud screeching sound as if it was breaking, a large zombie made several visible scratches on the gate.

In that moment, Zhang Xiao Qiang lying on the floor used both his legs to push off the zombie's thigh, falling down the stairs to the fourth floor, the individual steps were hitting his back as he fell. He was so nervous he didn't feel any pain, all he could think of was to keep his head raised.

“thump...” was the sound heard as Zhang Xiao Qiang hit a broken sofa that was near the bottom of the stairs, his head was still faint, “ROAAR...” the zombie upstairs started to rush towards Zhang Xiao Qiang. The zombie had no sight, and was missing a foot, it used its claws to pounce down the stairs. He had no time to think, he gripped his spear with his right hand, and held his crossbow, with the stock resting on the sofa behind him, eyes pinned on the zombie.

“pu...” the triangular spearhead pierced the zombie's chest and the zombie's momentum was halted by the spear pierce. The spear had reached a point where the water pipe was between the ribs before the zombie had stopped. Zhang Xiao Qiang then started to loosen the spear, rolling the zombie to one side, leaving it on the sofa. He knew that this wouldn't kill the zombie, he got off the floor and at the same time took out his knife, “chiak...” the knife entered the zombie's temple and he twisted the knife before pulling it back out.

"huf.." its done. The clothes that Zhang Xiao Qiang were wearing were thick winter clothes, he was lucky to have no injuries.

With the zombie at one side, Zhang Xiao Qiang cleaned the knife with dirt before putting it back in the sheath. Placing his feet on the corpse, he ripped out the spear. The zombie lay on the ground with its eyes facing the heavens, it was at least 180cm tall and was thick and strong. It was a strength variation of the zombie, its muscles had branches of veins, and its fingernails on its claws had remnants of metal.

Leaving it alone, Zhang Xiao Qiang walked into the house that it came out of.

Once he entered he smelt the stench of a corpse. He walked into the living room, looked left and right, the house was well decorated. The living room was made of mahogany, there was a huge fish bowl next to the window, but the water in the tank was cloudy, there was only a few dead fish inside. There was a lot of paintings and calligraphy hanging on the walls. Going to the bedroom door, the ground was covered with expensive handmade carpets, there were 2 to 3 skeletons on the ground, by the head of the Simmons bed there was a huge picture framed on the wall, a young husband, with a delicate, lovely wife, there also were lively and beautiful twins. The family of 4 were smiling, the scattered bones and smile corresponded, the sight was particularly cruel!!

Next to the bedroom was a study, which was next to the balcony. The glass on the balcony was broken and there was broken glass scattered on the floor. Stepping out onto the balcony, further broke the glass beneath his feet, making "clinking" sounds. The balcony was soaked from rainwater, making the wooden floor wet and slippery, the paint on the wall also began to fade.

Zhang Xiao Qiang seemed to have figured it out, "the master mutated, turning into a zombie, killing his wife and children in the bedroom, before they could mutate he ate them. After it started raining, the zombie broke the window so it could catch some rainwater, evolving into the strength zombie that it is now. "

Zhang Xiao Qiang did a search of the house and realised that the family never cooked at home. The kitchen was empty, there was only a few boxes of milk and 2 cans of coffee, but there was at least half a tank of water on the water dispenser. [TLN: I assume its the tank of a water cooler] He brought these goods back down with him.

## Chinese New Year (Spring Festival)

TLN: Chinese New Year = CNY

Today is Chinese New Year, Zhang Xiao Qiang's first Chinese New Year since the apocalypse, a lonely Chinese New Year. Reminiscing back to when he was younger, everyone in the home would get up early to prepare Chinese New Year goods, Zhang Xiao Qiang would take a warm shower and put on new clothes, and see his parents prepare a big meal.

A rooster drained of blood was lying on the floor weakly kicking, scattered feathers were gently fluttering in the air. Mother had a bucket of hot water ready to scald the rooster. Zhang Xiao Qiang and his sister were looking on while nibbling on melon seeds. Mother raised it, grabbing it by its two legs, the chicken was just hanging upside down, blood dripping along the beak onto the ground, leaving a red trail. The whole rooster from the head to the legs were rotating clockwise, until it made a final effort to break free before finally dying, its wings fluttered in the pail, and some of the boiling water spilled out. Zhang Xiao Qiang and his sister screamed out and hid. Then mother scolded them, loudly reminding them not to dirty their new clothes.

On normal days, father's solemnness is hard to come by, never with a serious face. Carrying the plate of spring rolls that were wrapped yesterday, keeping it beside the pan while watching the heat, humming an off-key tune, letting Zhang Xiao Qiang and his sister sit nearby singing along. The people on the streets were also in a hurry to get home, wanting to get home a little earlier to spend CNY with their families.

When it was night, father took out a large red firecracker and hung it

outside. Zhang Xiao Qiang was like a tail behind father's back, following him around, his sister was hiding behind the door, covering her ears and looking out.

"crackle crackle"the fireworks started, the family of four sat together, the table had a variety of dishes, father poured himself a cup of rice wine and slowly sipped it. Mother was holding a rice bowl talking, about how they needed to get up early tomorrow to visit grandma. Zhang Xiao Qiang and his sister were eating the food in large mouthfuls, eyes looking at the table, darting between the dishes.

after the big meal, the parents cleared the table, zhang xiao qiang and his sister sat near the white charcoal fire, eating melon seeds looking out at the "cny night event". Father was now sitting in the middle with a cup of tea, taking a sip from time to time, when Chen Pei Si appeared on the screen, zhang xiao qiang and his sister laughed heartily, the parents had smiles on their faces.

Thinking of the past, and of the current situation, a sadness filled his heart.

The apocalyptic CNY made Zhang Xiao Qiang feel great loneliness, looking at his phone by his pillow, he wished that someone would send him a happy CNY greetings text, even if it was just a 1008 telecommunication advertisement!!! The phone remained silent, feelings of despair started to grow, the growing loneliness was going to make him go crazy, he picked up the phone and threw it on the ground. [My dad's not a phone!]

"pa da..."the phone hit the ground and split into 3 parts, the main body, the battery, and the back cover. It did a staggered bounce before falling

back down and rolling to one side. Zhang Xiao Qiang held his head and sat on the edge of the bed, blankly staring at the phone!!!

Not knowing how long had past, his emotions started to stabilize, he picked up the bottle next to the computer and gave it a shake, watching the cockroach inside cheerfully running around, Zhang Xiao Qiang's mood started to improve again.

At least he was alive, at least he could stand here and leisurely toy with the cockroach, his luck was better than at least 90% of the worlds, and he could still breathe this air that probably wasn't fresh.

"haha!!!!!!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang laughed at himself, he always thought he was an experienced recluse, never had any empathy, why did he suddenly feel all moody and melancholic at the end of the world?

It was CNY today, China's most important event, why couldn't he celebrate it himself?

And so he did, Zhang Xiao Qiang looked at his watch, it was almost noon, he started to get busy, he used the bottled water and started to boil it, he took the luxury of a bath, this was the first time he had a bath since the apocalypse. After being refreshed he put on some clean clothes, discarding the dirty water from the bath and entered the living room.

A bowl of boiled fish, a dish of pork braised in brown sauce, a bowl of steamed egg and a big bowl of cabbage soup.

Normally this would just be a simple meal, but in an apocalypse this was a luxurious dinner on the table. He placed 3 extra sets of utensils on the table, for his sister and parents, next to his father's chopsticks was a glass filled with rice wine, he also poured a cup for himself of Great Wall Cabernet Sauvignon and slowly sipped.

He unconsciously finished a bottle of wine, the depression in his heart made him want to drink more. Picking up the bottle of rice wine, he started pouring it in his mouth. He drank half the bottle, his eyes were blurry and he felt like he had returned to the past, the whole family sitting around, mother was talking about some family gossip, with father ignoring all of it, but holding the cup and slowly swirling it, reaching for some food with his chopsticks to go with the wine, and his sister at the side asking for a new pair of shoes.

Zhang Xiao Qiang woke to an intense headache, he slowly got off his bed, the cold air made him feel chilly, he picked up a water bottle and finished it off, to deal with a night's worth of dry mouth.

The leftovers from yesterday were heated in a microwave, and eaten for breakfast. He had too much liquor last night, his mouth was left with a bitter taste, he couldn't taste what he was having for breakfast.

Following his routine of practicing thrusts, after completing his morning tasks he took a break. Taking out his MP9 military crossbow, he stood by the windowsill practicing his aim, 8 steel marbles have been used for this practice, but he was not willing to use the 6 arrows, because it would be hard to get back after shooting it. After dozens of attempts his aim was significantly better, at least he wasn't just shooting towards the east all the time.

The MP9 sniper crossbow had its crosshairs trained at one of the agile type evolution zombies. The zombie was just loitering, his MP9 was slowly following the zombies movement. The zombie under his crosshair started moving, rushing over in a single direction.

“Was something happening?” Zhang Xiao Qiang put down the sniper crossbow, and picked up the 10x binoculars and looked through it. In the sights, he could see one zombie pounced on an agile zombie, then the normal zombies nearby also started to move towards them.

“Zombies were infighting???” Zhang Xiao Qiang held the binoculars in a daze! The binoculars pointed at the zombie being attacked.

This was a variation of the agile zombie type, it looked better than the normal agile zombie; it was more flexible, around 1.4 metres tall, significantly smaller than normal zombies. It bent back with quick movements and the other zombies couldn't catch it. It was holding something in its two hands and eating it. At first Zhang Xiao Qiang couldn't see what it was eating, it was only when it faced him did he see it, he could see a mouse tail exposed in its hand.

The mouse was not big, so the disturbance wasn't long, after the mouse had been eaten, the zombies settled down.

Looking at the slightly stronger agile zombie return to the other side of the street, there was a row of old houses, there was a sewer in the corner, the mouse must have came out of there.

“so D Virus was only effective on human beings.” Zhang Xiao Qiang thought. He saw that agile zombie quietly waiting by the sewer, relating



it to the strength type zombie that he killed a few days back.

“D virus in the rain landing on the flesh and blood of the zombies cause them evolve??” Zhang Xiao Qiang finally had some understanding of why they started to evolve.

## Big Dog

TLN: Author switches between 1st and 3rd person

### 1st Person

I continued to live a simple life in this no longer noisy city. My life was; wake up, train, eat, continue training, eat, train again, eat, have a bit of leisure time and then sleep. Large amounts of training everyday has caused me to go through my food supplies quickly. Sometimes I even forget the reason for all this training. I just mindlessly and mechanically exercise. Without the internet and without keeping track of the days, I didn't know what else to do other than train.

I couldn't just sit idly because once I do that, I would start to think stupid thoughts and be trapped in that mindset all day long. Other than feeling tired like a dead dog, what else is there to do?

Everyday after training, taking the binoculars to the window to watch the zombies is one of my few forms of entertainment. Yesterday was 18th of Feb, which was my birthday. It was my first apocalyptic birthday. It was very ordinary and when I thought of it, it served only as reminder that I was one year older. I couldn't really remember what life was like before the apocalypse. It felt like the life now was real and everything before was nothing but a dream, disappearing after he woke up.

Looking out at the zombies outside the window, I was extremely bored so I started giving the zombies names. The ordinary zombies were called "Cannon Fodder", the power type zombies were called "Titan", D zombie for short, the agile zombies were called "Flash" and S zombie for short. Maybe I just have poor taste!

That S zombie that likes eating rats is still in front of the sewer, but it had become stronger. It looked more flexible... Looks like more rats have met their fate. This zombie seemed to be continuing to evolve; its height was still 1.4m, its arm length was longer, its palm was now at ankle level and 5 sharp points were on his claws like shiny black daggers. There wasn't a single zombie within 15m of it. If a zombie accidentally entered its territory, it would make a low warning growl.

The way I see it, the S zombie and D zombies on the street all started to evolve after eating human flesh. If they continued to eat more flesh, then they will continue to evolve. S zombies will become S2 types and S3 types, or even higher to S4, S5 or S6 type. D zombies will also evolve similarly.

There was only less than 10% of the human kind left behind, so those zombies that can't get any human flesh will attack other creatures.

"6.3 billion or more zombies eating all the world's creatures."

Thinking about this made me laugh bitterly. A zombie could evolve to live under water. If this really happened, then all that would be left on Earth are the zombies and insects. I'm going to get these stupid ideas out of my head. I continued to observe the zombies. After looking for a while I felt bored and was getting ready to leave and start preparing dinner when I noticed the zombies started rushing to the end of the street.

"Survivors???"

I quickly picked up my binoculars and looked over. The zombies were crowded together in the distance. It wasn't a very good viewing angle. I felt anxious and I didn't want to go to the roof, but I felt like I was missing something.

There was almost no more zombies downstairs as they were all crowded at the end of the street. From afar an S zombie could be seen in the middle of the crowd jumping up and down. A few D zombies from outside of the crowd pushed their way in, causing some zombies to fall, forming a few straight lines. The fallen zombies on the straight lines were then trampled by the rest of the zombies.

Seeing this, I know that unless the survivors were using a tank, they won't survive. The distant crowd of zombies that were pushing and shoving were a mess! That unlucky soul must not just be a pile of bones!!!

"Suddenly.."

Two black figures shot out from the zombies. In the sight, he could see two huge Soviet Red dogs [TLN: They are actual dogs.苏联红犬]. One left and one right facing the surrounding zombies. One had a zombie arm dangling in its mouth, taking advantage of the time the zombies needed to climb after it to gnaw freely on the food. The other was outside the zombie crowd carefully pacing back and forth, looking to find prey.

I know that Shan Dong is where Soviet Red dogs are bred the most. S zombies ran to the front. The S zombie that liked to eat rats ran in front of the other zombies.

Making a "shoouu.." sound, one of the dogs were pounced on by the zombies in front of it. The zombies used their claws to severely grab onto the front legs of the dog. The dog didn't care. It bit off the zombie's arm and ran off with it. The other dog just finished eating. It rushed down to the zombie's body and tore of a large chunk of meat before running off.

The two dogs were running and jumping between the zombies... Looking at it seemed silly.

"FUCK... This year, dogs are better off than people!!!"

I lamented. In my opinion these dogs were also infected, but it didn't turn into a zombie dog, but instead evolved into a really big dog. It was 1.6m tall and 2m long. If it had a head of a horse I would think it was a

horse.

“These damn zombies, these damn dogs, this damn apocalypse” I cursed under my voice. The more I thought about it, the worse I felt. I was almost killed by that damn rainwater, which was even more terrible than the 10 greatest torture techniques of the Qing Dynasty. I’ve suffered and felt pain without gaining any benefits. I don’t know if I have immunity against the D virus. I don’t dare to go find a zombie to test it.

Feeling extreme bitterness, I used my tone deaf and broken voice to sing a song.

“你说我耍赖才让你离不开

你说我自私只顾着自己爱

一阵阵暴雨随狂风吹过来

我左右摇摆差点就倒头栽

幸好我仍然有一点功力在

你触碰不到我致命的要害

卯上你只好自认倒霉活该

揣揣的样子你真正的心太坏

你越说越离谱

我越听越糊涂

打死不肯认输

还假装不在乎

你给我说清楚

我要啃掉你的骨

每次都被欺侮小心我一定报复

幸好我仍然有一点功力在

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卯上你只好自认倒霉活该

揣揣的样子你真的很心太坏

你越说越离谱

我越听越糊涂

打死不肯认输

还假装不在乎

你给我说清楚

我要啃掉你的骨

每次都被欺侮小心我一定报复

你越说越离谱

我越听越糊涂

打死不肯认输

还假装不在乎

你给我说清楚

我要啃掉你的骨

每次都被欺侮小心我一定报复”

[TLN: This is an actual song, if you want to listen to it, here it is. Its an



angsty song about a person that is basically toxic. If you really want it translated, I can do it but it'll be literal and I doubt you'll be able to sing to it >.>]

Feeling a little better I went downstairs. Outside the window, the two big dogs seemed to have finished their meal. They were no longer hunting and were just wandering around. The 200+ zombies from the street have been gathered together, surrounding these two dogs and forming a circle around them.

"hahahaha!!!" I laughed gloating, "You pushed your luck too far, where can you run this time?" If I couldn't eat the grapes, then I hope the fool that does eat them gets poisoned! I thought while anxiously staring out the window. [TLN: the grapes saying is him saying if I can't have a good thing, then no one can I believe]

The space around the dogs was getting smaller. The zombies were closing in. I was upstairs getting increasingly happy.

"Ohwoooo!!" the slightly bigger dog howled. Its limb pressed against the ground, spewing white gas towards the zombie in front of it. After 2 seconds, the dozens of zombies that were hit by the white gas stopped moving. The two dogs then burst through the zombies that couldn't move, heading out of sight.

Looking at the zombies that were knocked on the ground, I was just stupidly standing there, not moving. It was like my brain was turned to mush.

"Magic??? Sorcery???" It seemed like half a day passed by before I said

those words.

## The Cat That Really Looks Like A Leopard

[TLN: Looks like its back to 3rd person]

Zhang Xiao Qiang was stupidly standing next to the window sill, blankly staring downstairs. The gathered zombies started to scatter in all directions, once again spreading along the street. The ones with missing legs were left writhing on the ground and those frozen by the big dogs began to get up from the ground, continuing to wander.

"What happened to this world???" Zhang Xiao Qiang asked.

With no one there to answer him, if TV stations still existed, those experts that were still alive would be interested. From all areas of knowledge, experts would try and explain the new discovery. All big TV stations and all big news stations will cause a big commotion.

"all right...".

Zhang Xiao Qiang rubbed his face, "Its an apocalyptic world, the virus has come, the zombies have evolved so dogs having abilities isn't that strange." he explained to himself.

The days go by one at a time. Although he never missed a training

session, sometimes he couldn't really find the motivation to stick to it. Him wanting to be lazy, would unconsciously walk to the window, looking at the zombies below and ask himself: "Do you want to become a zombie? If you don't want to train then go! Go downstairs and find them. Go and become one of them. No need to be afraid of the days to come and you don't need to be afraid of not having food and will never need to be afraid of being alone!!"

Every time he got to this point, Zhang Xiao Qiang would turn around and train even harder. The fat in his body had begun to turn into strong muscles. Looking at his six pack, he started to tear up: "How many years has it been? How many years has it been since I've seen abs on my body?"

After completing today's weight training and resting a bit, he finished smoking a cigarette and started cooking. Looking at what he supplies he had left, it wouldn't be able to last longer than a week.

"Need to go out and look for food."

Zhang Xiao Qiang was thinking while making food. The other day, killing the D zombie made him have psychological doubts.

After finishing his meal, Zhang Xiao Qiang would always turn on his computer and play some singleplayer games. The boot sound rang out

and then his computer went black. The lights in the house also turned off.

"The fuse is blown?"

Zhang Xiao Qiang had a reaction. However after looking around for his mobile phone he started to look for the fuse. Only after half a day did he realise that the city power grid after working for three more months, is down. The whole city plunged into darkness.

Zhang Xiao Qiang sat on his bed looking out the dark empty night outside the window. He was surrounded by silence, he could hear his own heartbeat.

Occasionally the noise of empty cans being kicked by a zombie could be heard from down stairs. That sound would come from far away in the silent night, very far away.

Zhang Xiao Qiang sat there silently. It felt like he had never been this quiet before. Thinking back as far as he could, he became sleepy and fell asleep.

Zhang Xiao Qiang opened his eyes. Yet another new day had begun.

Without electricity, the induction cooker won't work so he thought

about plans for the future while eating the cold rice leftover from yesterday.

"I can't live on like this. Without electricity, without cooking ability and without food one can only slowly starve to death"

"If I'm fast I should be able to rush over. FUCK, I don't know where those two dogs ran off to!"

Trying to run out of the city from the streets is undoubtedly too hard. Even just downstairs, there are nearly 200 zombies. The two big dogs that appeared a few days ago have been here twice more then disappeared again after eating a few zombies. The car park for the flower garden downstairs had quite a few sedans but Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't know how to drive. Even if he got the car keys he still wouldn't be able to drive them. So far he can only ride bicycles. He's only ridden those scooters with small wheels and a small motor twice.

He couldn't think of anything. He didn't want to think anymore. Just prepare the supplies first before thinking!

Zhang Xiao Qiang emptied his backpack and put it on. Checking his waist for the army knife, he carried the MP9 military sniper bow on his back, picked up his spear and went out.

Reaching the platform, he looked around. He felt like each zombie had its own territory. Its been 3 months and still no zombies came up to the platform. He went to the platform's stairway entrance and looked at the garden.

"Whats happening here???" The zombies in the flower garden were all gone. There were many bones just scattered across the ground, "Where are the zombies?" Zhang Xiao Qiang quietly said.

He slowly walked down the stairs to the garden. Spring was still not here yet. The vines on the pavilion had a few growing buds. The few remaining dead leaves set a depressing scene. There was dry grass on the lawn messily scattered everywhere. The garden had piles of bones, creating a stunningly strange scenery!

Zhang Xiao Qiang walked into the garden. There was a strange smell and a sense of curiosity filled his heart.

"Feels like something is watching me." Zhang Xiao Qiang said to himself.

All of a sudden, he felt some fear. Last time, it was this feeling that made him rush into the rain. The consequence of that was unbearable pain and it also made him feel inhuman. He regretted what he did after the event.

Zhang Xiao Qiang stood in the garden and observed his surroundings, trying to find out what he was smelling. Ultimately, he didn't find anything. He just carefully moved towards the canteen, taking the tiger tooth army knife from the scabbard to ensure he can use it at anytime. Taking out the MP9 military sniper crossbow, he loaded a steel arrow to prepare for use at anytime. He held the knife in one hand and the crossbow in the other, keeping on alert. Only until reaching the canteen did Zhang Xiao Qiang let out a sigh of air. Without anyone tidying the place for months, the canteen let out a musty smell. Zhang Xiao Qiang took as much instant food with high calories as possible; chocolate, ham, and tins of canned beef, also taking a few bottles of water, a few cigarettes, and after putting in a few lighters, nothing else would fit anymore!

Lifting it, it was only about 20 pounds. He easily put it on his back and started to head home. The feeling of being watched felt stronger when returning. After walking onto the platform he could feel an intimidating chill from his tailbone all the way to the top of his head. His strange sixth sense kept warning him. The garden area felt dangerous. Zhang Xiao Qiang slowly started to walk to the house and the feeling of danger grew strong and stronger. When he reached the middle of the platform the feeling was at its peak.

Zhang Xiao Qiang slowly removed the backpack, carefully placing it on the ground. The spear on the bag allowed him to pick it up easily. Using both hands to hold the sniper crossbow he pointed it in the direction of the stairs. A black and beautiful leopard appeared on the crosshairs of the sight. On its head, it had two red eyes flashing like hazard lights. It bared its whitish yellowish fangs to show its savageness. Its 2m long and



1.2m tall body seemed to hide dangerous strength, ready to burst out at any moment. There were sharp claws coming out of its padded feet tightly pressing against the cement floor.

“FUCK, how did the leopard from the zoo get here?! Why does it look familiar?” he thought.

Zhang Xiao Qiang took aim at the leopard’s head, ready to pull the trigger.

When its whole body laid onto the platform, he felt dumbfounded. This leopard was beginning to look more and more like the fat cat from his neighbour’s home.

## Cat or Leopard?

In that moment he really didn't know if it was a fat leopard that looked like a cat or a fat cat that looked like leopard. It suddenly rushed towards Zhang Xiao Qiang. He tightened his finger, pulled the trigger and an arrow fired out. In the blink of an eye a great force knocked him sideways. He rolled a couple times on the ground to disperse the momentum and got up.

The leopard was 7-8m away, prowling around Zhang Xiao Qiang. It had a steel bolt stuck in its shoulder. Zhang Xiao Qiang threw aside the sniper crossbow and picked up his spear and went back and forth with it. His right shoulder felt a numbing pain. Using his peripheral vision to see, the clothing on his right shoulder was torn to bits. There were 3 deep bleeding wounds that were 5-6 cm long.

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't bother with the wound and fixed his eyes on the leopard. If he didn't hit it with his crossbow, forcing it back, it would be at his throat right now.

The leopard lowered its head. It walked around him lightly and with agility. It made a "purring" noise with its throat. It was intently looking for Zhang Xiao Qiang's weaknesses, ready to deal the fatal blow. Zhang Xiao Qiang kept facing it. He was following its movements. Gripped by the tenseness, he lost track of time, and he couldn't feel any pain from his wound.

At last, it couldn't take it anymore and rushed towards him. The countless thrust exercises have finally come into play. The head of the spear thrust towards its head at lightning speed. At the same time, its

head tilted down. The spearhead moved past its ears and stabbed its back, drawing blood from its beautiful fur. Zhang Xiao Qiang was also knocked to the ground by its great strength.

Zhang Xiao Qiang rolled face up, but before he could get up, the leopard was already rushing towards him. He gripped the spear with both hands. He pointed the spear at the leopard in the air, waiting for it to stab itself. The leopard already had rushed before him, it could see that it was going to be stabbed by the spear. So unbeknownst to Zhang Xiao Qiang, it moved its lightweight body in the air and flew over Zhang Xiao Qiang's head, with the spearhead lightly grazing its hind legs.

Zhang Xiao Qiang immediately stood up and faced the leopard. The leopard, taking advantage of him not fully standing rushed towards him. However, this time the leopard didn't jump into the air to attack but lowered its body, rushing for his thigh. All that can be said is that the leopard's battle instincts are too sharp. It has evaded the few times he'd done his spear thrusts and every time it would take advantage of his weakness to attack him.

In the blink of an eye, the leopard rushed in front of Zhang Xiao Qiang.

"Kill!!!" This cry did not come out of his voice. It came from his banging heart in his chest. With his whole body revitalized, he thrust the spear in his hands towards the leopard's head.

Like the previous attempt, just before the spear connected, the leopard lowered its head and once again it moved across its back, removing

some fur. Zhang Xiao Qiang was pulled to the ground by the leopard's tail. His shins were aching, but he didn't have time to check if the bone was broken. Once again, he raised the spear, pointing it at the leopard and sure enough, the leopard rushed towards him while he was down, with its eyes fixed on his throat!

Zhang Xiao Qiang held his spear like before, pointing it at the leopard's head. The leopard was just a moment before colliding with it when it jumped aside, not wanting to suffer any more loss.

Zhang Xiao Qiang got up. Just like the beginning, he faced the leopard once again. His shoulder was hot with pain. His shins had fractured bones which kept tormenting his pain receptors. A cold sweat continually flowed along his cheeks. He ignored everything else, the only thing in his eyes was this catlike leopard like monster. Even if it was a tiger it wouldn't be this strong!!

The bolt lodged in its shoulder blades seem to be causing it pain. The leopard was getting increasingly agitated. Its scarlet eyes were flashing red with hatred for Zhang Xiao Qiang. Hate? It surprised Zhang Xiao Qiang with its human-like emotions!

He continued to press on. It was like a dog attacking a hedgehog. Any given opening can be used to deal a bit more damage. Zhang Xiao Qiang was like using a feather blanket to hit a rabbit: it was unlikely to hit. Now this kind of gave Zhang Xiao Qiang a headache as he cant beat it, cant run away, not even free to move as he was afraid of revealing a weakness. He used his peripheral vision to find the crossbow.

"Can't..." Zhang Xiao Qiang and the leopard had been fighting for a few rounds. The battle was getting further and further away from his backpack. Using the sniper crossbow to scare it away is a hopeless plan as well! Now he could only hope that it will go away on its own.

The leopard had been circling Zhang Xiao Qiang for an unknown amount of times. Zhang Xiao Qiang had also been facing the leopard for an unknown amount of time. Now, his whole body was aching. Only his heart was unyieldingly beating.

The leopard's eye looked more and more dangerous. It also grew impatient. Zhang Xiao Qiang also felt the strain and knew he couldn't keep going much longer.

"You TMD [TLN: Not sure what it stands for] want to fight? Come fight quickly. Want to run then run now. Dawdling around here is really annoying!"

Zhang Xiao Qiang scolded it in his mind. At this point the leopard's patience ran out. He still had no plan after watching Zhang Xiao Qiang for so long. It was angry!

"Ahwooo...." The leopard made a low growl. As Zhang Xiao Qiang heard it, it sounded like the fat cat from next door. But why do these

circumstances feel so familiar?

“FUCKFUCKFUCK...” Zhang Xiao Qiang yelled under his breath. The spear that he was holding with a death grip was knocked away. Now both his hands were holding his head like a “lazy donkey rolling back”, not thinking about anything. He couldn’t think about anything! He was only desperately rolling away!

A burning flame from behind him sprayed over and in a short time, he had reached the edge of the fire. Other than burning some hair, there were only a few burns on his face. After a few more rolls the flame on his clothes were extinguished. After the spray of flames, it became dull. When it saw that Zhang Xiao Qiang had no spear in his hands, it rushed towards him.

[TLN: I have no idea where the flame comes from, it just suddenly explodes.]

Seeing the leopard rushing towards him, Zhang Xiao Qiang drew his tiger toothed knife and tried to estimate the distance between them.

Closer.

Closer.

When it was 5m apart, the leopard slammed its hind feet into the ground and lunged towards him. In the moment before it bit Zhang Xiao

Qiang, following the posture of his daily lunge training, he lowered his body and gripped the knife in his right hand. The cutting edge was moving forwards with the knife tip facing up. His left hand was supporting the back of the knife, with the blade tilted forwards. The pressure went from the blade tip to the cutting edge then to the wrist. Then, the resistance completely disappeared.

The leopard lightly fell onto the ground behind him. He turned to look at it. Then in the next moment, all kinds of organs fell out of its body "flopping" onto the ground. The leopard took 3-4 steps towards Zhang Xiao Qiang before falling to the ground, twitching.

"sigh...."

Zhang Xiao Qiang let out a deep breath.

He walked to the leopard's body and looked at it. No matter how he looked at it, it still looked like the fat cat that Zhang Xiao Qiang released from the kitchen two months ago. Zhang Xiao Qiang still remembered seeing it when it was running away.

"Could it be that the cat had mutated to become this size?" Thinking of this, Zhang Xiao Qiang then kicked it really hard with one foot; "Ungrateful fool, had I knew this would happen, I would have just left you in the kitchen to starve"

The knife had cut from its throat all the way to its asshole. The ground

was getting bloody.

"Serves it right"

Zhang Xiao Qiang wanted to recover his spear as his life today depended on it.

"FUCKFUCKFUCK" Zhang Xiao Qiang yelled at the dead cat as he looked at the spear. The three pointed file had been burnt into charcoal and the galvanized pipes were burning red and a little deformed. After all the sweat and blood, seeing it turned into this, how could he not be angry?

Zhang Xiao Qiang pulled out the knife, wanting to cut up the cat into 8 pieces. One slice, two slice and still, he continued to stab the corpse. Suddenly he stabbed something hard that shook his arm numb, "Was it bone?" He cut it out.

An irregular triangular object was exposed. It was the size of a fist. Picking it up, it was covered in blood, but it felt really hard.

"Cats also had cartilage???"

Zhang Xiao Qiang picked up the hot spear. After putting on his backpack and retrieving the MP9 he went home, carrying the cat cartilage. After closing the iron gates, his heart was relaxed. He could feel the strength in his body disappearing. He felt weak and dizzy. He used the last of his strength to climb into bed, then he didn't know what else to do.



## Massive Meal

Zhang Xiao Qiang woke up. He was woken up by something. Yesterday, fiercely fighting with the evolved cat used up all his strength and energy. He couldn't remember anything of what he did after he got home. His belly was on fire and a similar feeling was stimulating his taste buds. There was only one thing on his mind, "eat".

Zhang Xiao Qiang ran to the living room, grabbing the bag and opened the zipper. He poured everything onto the ground. All kinds of food, cigarettes and mineral water were scattered all over the floor. He knelt on the ground, picking up a bar of chocolate, opening it and shoving it into his mouth. He didn't chew. He swallowed it in one mouthful. Various food packaging bags were constantly falling onto the ground. Zhang Xiao Qiang's hunger was controlling his mind. He only knew how to tear open wrappers and shove food in his mouth.

The ground was filled with all kinds of torn wrappers and empty metal cans. The food slowly reduced until it completely disappeared. The feeling of hunger grew stronger and stronger. He ran into the kitchen, opening the rice bag and scooped out raw rice, shoving it in his mouth. His mouth was chewing and making crunching sounds. The dry broken rice was making his throat sore as he swallowed, causing him to choke and roll his eyes. He didn't even get the chance to drink some water. He was just continually shoving food in his mouth. When there was only 5kg of rice left in the bag, he was satisfied.

Raw eggs were cracked open. Egg white, egg yolk and egg shells were

all swallowed. Chinese cabbage; he didn't care if it was the leaf or the stem, he ate them both. He was like a hungry locust, crazily eating any kind of food that he could see.

When he couldn't find any more food, he slowly came back to his senses. It looked like a devil had been there, raiding the entire kitchen.

"Did I do this?" Zhang Xiao Qiang was sluggish.

What just happened to him felt like a dream. Not remembering anything after waking up. What was enough for half a month was finished. Whatever the taste, whatever the texture he couldn't remember it. With all that food in his stomach, his stomach still didn't feel bloated. It still felt like he wasn't full yet!

"Maybe my digestive system is mutated?" Zhang Xiao Qiang was baffled.

He couldn't understand and was too lazy to figure it out. This was also his greatest advantage, he never had to come to a dead end. [TLN: I think it means that he would never get stuck in a certain mindset] The slight tickle on his right shoulder reminded Zhang Xiao Qiang of yesterday. He was wounded. The clothing and wound were stuck together. It was dried and stuck to his body. He carefully took off his shirt and used a wet rag to clean out the wound, slowly revealing it.

"It can't be?" There are too many things that have surprised Zhang Xiao Qiang today. He clearly remembered that yesterday, there was a wound up to half an inch deep on his shoulder. It was 5-6 cm long. Now the wound was a closed, dark brown scar. It seemed like with gentle removal, the dark dried blood would naturally fall off, not leaving a trace of injury.

"I'm superhuman now?" Zhang Xiao Qiang was surprised by his own healing ability. Could it be that after being affected by the rain, his healing ability was enhanced several times?

"Isn't that spoken of in legends? The <<hot blooded stupid youth which cant die>>?" he let his thoughts run wild.

"At least I don't need to be afraid of being hurt?" Thinking of all the food that he ate, he wanted to yell.

"Or maybe I shouldn't get hurt anymore, otherwise I would gain a zombie-like appetite", Thinking of this he got a chill. He didn't bother with the wound anymore. He started to check the burnt spear. The galvanized pipe was a little deformed but still could be used. Some pieces of wood could be attached to the head of the pipe. After securing it with some nails, he tested it in his hands, "Its alright"

And the MP9 sniper bow was put together with the weird tooth, <<the

cat cartilage>> that caught Zhang Xiao Qiang's attention. Holding it in his hands, they were covered in dirt. After using some water to wash it clean, it looked like some kind of red quartz, with a mottled dark colour along with a rugged form. It was somewhat warm to the touch. The longer it was held the higher the temperature. "Can it be used to heat water?" Zhang Xiao Qiang thought as he put it into his pockets.

There was no food left in the house, he needed to go look for more.

"No electricity, no food and the canteen downstairs is quickly running out of food. I can no longer stay at home, I need to escape" Zhang Xiao Qiang resolved.

Zhang Xiao Qiang would rather stay at home if possible. Because this place had no communications, no media and no people, there nothing to gain here. Outside there was many dangers: countless zombies and variations of dangerous cunning animals but there was also an unpredictable future.

Picking up his spear and opening the iron gate, he went out to look for food. He walked to the entrance of the stairs and saw the mutated cat's body. There were 19 zombies tearing at its corpse. A thick smell of blood and stench came over. There were 2 S zombies and 6 D zombies there. Zhang Xiao Qiang's appearance gathered the attention of the zombies. The two S zombies were already starting to rush towards him.

He didn't have much time to think. He turned and ran away from the zombies that were running towards him. The two S zombies were close behind Zhang Xiao Qiang. After running a path of half an arc he looked back. The S zombies were even closer. The six D zombies were still back there, not having a reaction.

"S zombies run faster than me" Zhang Xiao Qiang was a little worried.

The S zombies were only 3-4 steps away. They were about to catch up.

"Fight." He put his right foot down and his left foot took half a step back. He suddenly twisted and thrust.

"Kill!" Zhang Xiao Qiang yelled. The spear pierced the zombie's forehead. He swiftly twisted the spear around and pulled it out.

The other S zombie was already right before him. It swung at Zhang Xiao Qiang's face. He took half a step back with his right foot, avoiding the zombie by turning his body. A dried and skinny arm carrying a stench waved past his nose. Then he put his hands in the air and drew a circle, slamming the back of the zombie before him. The zombie fell forward to the ground. Zhang Xiao Qiang took a few steps forwards and killed it with the spear.

Zhang Xiao Qiang breathed a sigh of relief. The six D zombies were just stepping towards him at normal speed. Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't dare to be careless. Bringing the 6 D zombies in a circle, he wanted to lure them

and kill them one by one. Too bad zombies only instinctively follow him which allowed him this opportunity.

Zhang Xiao Qiang stole a glance at the corpse of the cat. The body was mutilated. There were still a few ordinary zombies eating, "I've got a plan" Zhang Xiao Qiang would lead the 6 D zombies to his side.

As expected, the D zombies and the normal zombies collided, causing a commotion. Zhang Xiao Qiang decided to take advantage of the rare opportunity. Rushing behind one of the D zombies, he thrust his spear. He then retracted his spear and the D zombie fell to the ground, pinning a normal zombie onto the ground. The rest of the D zombies walked past the cat corpse and started walking towards him. He didn't have time to kill a second one. Zhang Xiao Qiang brought the remainder of the D zombies around. 5 of them, 4, 3, 2, and after the last one had been dealt with, Zhang Xiao Qiang leaned on his spear to catch his breath.

There were 7 zombies remaining. One of them was still pinned onto the ground by the dead D zombie. With the fierce fight that had just occurred, it didn't gather their attention. Other than flesh, they didn't care about anything else. Even with Zhang Xiao Qiang standing behind them he was still unnoticed.

Zhang Xiao Qiang stabbed them to death one by one.

Looking over on the platform, there were 15 zombies that were scattered everywhere, giving Zhang Xiao Qiang a sense of accomplishment.

"The zombies on the street were lead here by the smell of blood" Zhang Xiao Qiang came to a conclusion.

After resting, he prepared to go downstairs to look for food. He walked over to the entrance of the stairway and saw hundreds of zombies downstairs.

## Preparations Before Departure

Zhang Xiao Qiang became dull after looking downstairs. "Could it be that all the zombies on the streets had come here?" The small space downstairs was crowded full of zombies. Where the stairs met the platform, the ground was slanted. The stairs entered the main building and creates an angle. Hundreds of zombies were all squeezed at the end of the slant. A few of the zombies at the edge of the group smelt Zhang Xiao Qiang and started heading towards him.

Having just experienced a fierce fight, his body was getting weak. After thinking about killing a few hundred zombies, he decided that he might tire himself to death, so he returned home, bitterly thinking of a plan.

Downstairs outside the window, the streets were empty. There were only a few zombies with broken legs crawling around. The zombie that liked eating rats, that was possibly still evolving was among them. There was also one where its thigh had only bone left, as the big mutant dog took a bite. At that time, it was the fiercest one. It was running the fastest, so naturally, now it looked miserable.

"What can I do?"

"Use fire? I don't have any gas and even if I used cooking oil, I don't have much of it!!!"

"Use the sniper crossbow? I only have 6 bolts. I've got 40 steel balls left



but at most I can kill a quarter of them, what about the other three quarters?"

"What if I ignore the zombies and used a rope to get from the window to downstairs? But how do I get over the protective fence as I don't have any equipment."

"Cover my entire body with thick clothing and rush out?" Zhang Xiao Qiang shuddered and shook his head.

"That's just asking to be killed"

"They have no sight, an average hearing ability and a strong sense of smell." Zhang Xiao Qiang started to sum up. Zombies are sensitive to flesh up to 1000m away. All the zombies that were within a 1000m radius were downstairs.

"Strong sense of smell..." Zhang Xiao Qiang continued to speak aloud. They can smell things that are up to 1000m away, meaning that the olfactory organs are developed. It means what they smell is precise, which means it is vulnerable to being damaged.

"I've got it" to Zhang Xiao Qiang, the more sensitive the sense of smell, the more important it is to the body. When the zombies are mutating, their sensory organs are developed unevenly as there is an over reliance on smell. The stronger the sense of smell, then the more it will affect the zombie's bodies. The sense of smell is the zombie's radar, if it is lost, then they will just be like headless flies!

He couldn't make a molotov, but making a few homemade gas bombs should be no problem. If I can think of it, I can do it. Zhang Xiao Qiang walked towards the kitchen.

After a short while, there were a few gas bombs before him. The main component was dry hot pepper with some cinnamon pepper wrapped with sheets into a ball, topped with peanut oil. (At the time of making, he almost added in some bean paste, luckily he came back to his senses.) In addition, he separately wrapped some black pepper in some newspaper.

Preparing to leave, the mutant cat body had gathered 7-8 more zombies. They were probably the ones that followed Zhang Xiao Qiang. He didn't bother with them as there are still a whole bunch of bodies around. It should be enough for them to eat for a while!

Zhang Xiao Qiang returned to the entrance of the stairway. The zombies were still crowded downstairs. The zombies on the outer side once again started to stagger towards him. He then threw the pepper wrapped in newspaper at the group. The newspaper opened up midair and the black pepper inside spread out. The black pepper in the air created a grey fog that slowly covered their bodies. Not long after, the whole group started to go crazy. Zhang Xiao Qiang then lit the homemade gas bomb and threw it into the group of zombies. In moments the group of zombies were enveloped in a cloud of thick smoke. Zhang Xiao Qiang could even smell the odour of the tear gas standing at the top of the platform, which says something about the zombies downstairs.

The group of zombies were acting like they had poked a hornets nest as they were mindlessly running around. The zombies were pushing each other, scrambling about. Others that were gassed were scratching and biting the zombies around them. Some zombies were knocked to the ground, then over a 100 legs stepped on it, submerging them into the

group. Zhang Xiao Qiang, from the platform looked on. Seeing this kind of scene was rare and was a wonderful refreshing sight.

The zombie group downstairs ran away with not a single one left. The 10 remaining zombies were the ones that were paralysed as they were trampled by the zombie group. Zhang Xiao Qiang looked back to see those few zombies that were around the mutant cat body still munching. Seeing this, he tightened his grip on the spear.

Standing near the canteen, the floor was filled with bags. Zhang Xiao Qiang picked up cookies and started eating. Every now and then he took a large drink of mineral water. In the morning, he had completely finished all the food in the house and he still wasn't satisfied. After that, he killed over 10 zombies. He was exhausted and felt even more hungry, so now he was just standing in the canteen, eating to replenish his strength.

The biscuits on the shelves were quickly consumed. When it was the last biscuit remaining, he greedily scanned the food shelves.

"There were only 8 full bags left" he said with some regret. The small store was never really big, so after looting it a few times most of the shelves were now completely empty. They were only left with a few dozen packets of instant noodles and some rice noodles, but there was still a lot of seasoning. Not wanting to leave anything behind he stuffed it all in his backpack. Remembering that his house didn't have many cigarettes left, he took a red box of < <Yellow Crane Cigarettes> >, (they were 50 dollars before so couldn't afford them but now he cant leave them behind,) and a soft china and went home!

Zhang Xiao Qiang prepared to escape the city tomorrow. Now that he had to prepare all his supplies, after going home, the first thing he had to

do was to search a few houses to see if he can gather any more food, but unfortunately he only got a handful in return. However, in the military home he found a box of steel balls, and a multi functional folding shovel. The shovel can be used like a pair of pliers. It was hidden under the bed. Lastly, he found a map of the province in the table drawer.

He put all the instant noodles first, then the 10 pounds of thai rice, two bundles of noodles and some pickled vegetables. After a few bottles of mineral water and after looking at the backpack, it was only about half full. It can still can pack a lot of things. He added a few more bottles of water. Thinking about it, he went back and put in the beef and chili sauce. After thinking about the glass bottle's weight, he found an empty bottle of mineral water and mixed a variety of sauces into it. Then, after packing a number of cigarettes into it he was basically done.

Then he found a large military water bottle. It was what his dad used to use when he went hunting. After washing it clean and filling it with water, there wasn't much water left. Who knows whether the water outside has viruses in it.

He also found an old military bag that can be used to store the metal lunch boxes from home. The lunch box can be used when cooking along with a small ceramic cup. These were all left by this dad. Zhang Xiao Qiang couldn't help but sigh.

"Even though the stuff left behind by dad is old, they're all pieces of treasure."

Doing a final check, then thinking for moment, he took the <<rice wine>> in the house and poured it into a plastic bottle. He also took 2 bags of salt and a bag of tea, putting them into the bag,

Living supplies are ready now. To check the weapons, there were the spear and knife. After using it a dozen times Zhang Xiao Qiang found a tick with the sniper crossbow. He sanded off the protective lacquer from the body of the arrow. It can prevent wear this way. In addition, it can also increase the arrow's stability. Just make sure that it's lubricated with oil from time to time. Then he finally packed the military shovel and its all "OK". He wanted to put the iron hammer and military shovel together, who knows when they'll come in handy.

When Zhang Xiao Qiang was done preparing it was getting dark. Zhang Xiao Qiang moved a few imitation mahogany chairs against the door, then lit a fire in the living room. A wind blew in through the open window. The fire in the living room started dancing. The room was then dark and bright. The light and darkness were dancing with his thoughts of all the memories, both the good and bad of this house. It was the last night before Zhang Xiao Qiang left.

## Fighting the way out after being surrounded

Zhang Xiao Qiang woke up in the morning. Looking out the window, the sky was hazy. There was a cool breeze blowing against his face, making ripples in his heart.

Zhang Xiao Qiang has moved houses 3 times before. The house he's living in this time has been the longest time. He's spent half his life here. At first he thought that he would have spent the rest of his life there as well but fates changes. Today he will have to abandon it.

After packing his travel bag and checking his weapons. He changed his clothes and went outside, doing one last look around his house. He kept everything in this house firmly in his mind as he doesn't know if he will ever return. He also didn't know what he would face in the future. Walking from the living room to the kitchen to all the way to the bed room and finally touching his computer, he sighed,

"In future with no computers or the internet, I forever bid farewell to the title of recluse."

Next to the computer was the cockroach in the plastic bottle. The cockroach was still at the bottom, playing dead. It seemed to be oblivious to what was happening outside the bottle. Zhang Xiao Qiang picked up the bottle and shook it. The cockroach, being subjected to movement, crawled around, trying to find a way out. Two days without water and food didn't seem to have an impact on it.

Zhang Xiao Qiang suddenly felt compassion. Cockroaches are so humble, so small, yet so calm in such a desperate situation. It saved up

every bit of energy in its body, minimizing energy consumption, silently waiting for the opportunity to escape one day. Even if it is the cockroach's natural instinct, it is this very instinct that he admires. Suddenly Zhang Xiao Qiang had hope for the future, he was no longer worried.

"I will follow the cockroach's example. I will survive in this apocalypse like the cockroach." Zhang Xiao Qiang told himself.

Unscrewing the lid, he poured the cockroach out and it quickly ran to a corner. Zhang Xiao Qiang blessed it in his heart "May you live on".

Zhang Xiao Qiang opened the iron gate and took one last look back at the house then walked out.

The iron gates were locked. He wore the key on a string around his neck. It was close to his heart, it will forever be his spiritual guide, the home of his soul.

27th March 2013, it's been 90 days since the apocalypse. Zhang Xiao Qiang had officially left the house to face the apocalyptic future.

The mutant cat body had already been burnt to ashes. The air was filled with a burnt stench, mixed with the smell of dead bodies. There were still 7-8 zombie bodies scattered across the concrete floor. Zhang Xiao Qiang was too lazy to bother with them and started heading downstairs. The zombie crowd from yesterday had already scattered, but there was still 40+ zombies out in the garden.

Zhang Xiao Qiang reached downstairs. There were a dozen zombies

near him on the ground with bones that were crushed by the zombie crowd. These zombies turned to face him, opening their mouths wide, they released an odor. They wanted to bite him but were unable to climb up. He crossed the floor of zombies and went down the path leading to the street.

He used the MP9 Sniper crossbow to take care of any zombies on the street that got in the way. After passing by the 2 mutated dogs hunting, plus the ones that he had killed yesterday on the platform, there were now only a dozen zombies left in the garden. Now within the 1000m was a total of less than 100 zombies, so there was only 1 in a 10m radius.

The street that lead to the city centre had been blocked. The end of the street that leads to the outer city would take 3-4 hours walking. There would definitely be zombies on the way there, even though the population density was low, there still could be tens of thousands! Now he could only just start walking and see.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was standing at the centre of the street. He only needed to face the less than 50 zombies at the end of the street. Looking at these zombies, he felt distressed about the remaining steel balls. Even though he had half a pound worth of balls, once used they'll be lost. He needed to at least kill one zombie for each ball.

Zhang Xiao Qiang walked along the street carefully, sprinkling some rice wine on his body. The pungent smell of alcohol made him feel a little dizzy, "Had I knew this day was coming, I would have learnt to take alcohol better".

Zhang Xiao Qiang was carrying the sniper crossbow, carefully tip toeing. He was carefully walking around the broken glass on the ground.



The spear was slotted in the leather buckle at the side of the backpack. The tip was pointing up and every now and then it would hit the back of his legs. The smell of the rice wine made it so that zombies outside of a 30m radius couldn't smell him. Too bad it doesn't work if they are any closer.

Zhang Xiao Qiang walked past the zombies one at a time, carefully making sure not to alarm them. It felt like a live action version of <<a commando game>>. When facing a zombie couldn't be avoided, then he would slowly approach it within the 30m radius and wait for it come closer to him, then he would shoot it with the sniper crossbow at close range to kill it.

After the reaching the end of the street he didn't know how many zombies still wanted to eat him. Zhang Xiao Qiang can only try to save every bit of energy, in case of an unknown crisis.

When Zhang Xiao Qiang killed the eleventh zombie he was finally at the intersection of the street. He let out a deep bitter sigh. It wasn't easy getting here. The sight before him made him tear up.

Going forwards at this intersection was the main road leading to the city. A large dump truck that was carrying sand had rolled onto the street. Its 8 metre long body completely blocked the road.

On the left road of is a building material warehouse, which lead into a development area. There were factories over in the development zone. Just one factory alone would have thousands of employees, which are probably all zombies now. Zhang Xiao Qiang going there wouldn't be finding escape but rather be looking for death.

On the right road, it had all kinds of small restaurants, all the way until the river's edge, containing a port. The number of zombies on that street was no less than there were behind him, but all he could do was bite the bullet and go down the street towards the river.

The zombie density here was much higher. It took a lot of effort for Zhang Xiao Qiang to walk through here. Sometimes he would have to face 2 zombies at once but he also became more proficient at killing the zombies. He was no longer waiting till they got close. He was killing them from afar. He also managed to kill two D zombies. Luckily, he didn't come across any S zombies. The strength of the D zombies didn't matter much to him as they weren't facing him, giving him time to aim. But facing S zombies made his heart race. They were too fast. If he wasn't careful, they could easily wound him and if they wounded him he would become one of them. Zhang Xiao Qiang still didn't want to be a zombie.

After walking halfway, he stood by a tall glass wall and took a break.

"crash"

The glass wall shattered. The air was filled with broken glass. A tall D zombie jumped next to Zhang Xiao Qiang. A massive right swing was heading towards him. He hurriedly ducked and the claws flew through the air above his head, hitting the spear in his backpack. The force went from his backpack to his body, the momentum causing his body to be thrown onto the ground. He was facing the sky. The D zombie then bent forwards and swung its hands down.

Zhang Xiao Qiang quickly rolled to the side.

"bang"

The claws hit the cement pavement. Bits of debris was flying everywhere and countless bits of sand fell onto his head and into his collar. Zhang Xiao Qiang had been stunned by the zombie. He just kept rolling. The military water bottle he was carrying was making clinking sounds. He rolled until he was behind the zombie and pulled the iron hammer out of his backpack. Mustering up all his strength, he hit the D zombie in the ankle.

"Bang..."

A great recoil force was transferred back, pulling the hammer back from the shock. The force was strong enough to almost knock the hammer out of his hands. The muscles in his palm were torn, they felt like they were burning.

A big foot was about to crush him and Zhang Xiao Qiang dare not deal with any more other D zombies, so he tried to roll to the side of the river desperately, until he hit a wheel at the side of the road. Only then did he get up. He felt dizzy. The D zombie started to walk towards him. Behind it was was broken the glass wall with countless number of zombies rushing out. There were at least 4 S zombies running past the tall D zombie, running towards him.

Zhang Xiao Qiang felt the urge to pee. Screaming out loud, he turned back and started running towards the river. After running for 3 steps he saw that the road ahead had zombies that were slowly surrounding him. It must have been the breaking glass before that got their attention. He

had been completely surrounded by the zombies.

## So Close Yet So Far

Zhang Xiao Qiang was shaking and looking in all directions, trying to find a way out. Numerous zombies from both ends of the streets were closing in on him. He blamed himself for not being careful enough. Seeing the zombies getting closer to him, he grew more anxious.

To get away from the S zombies behind him, he had to go forwards into the group of normal zombies on the street. His eyes were fixed on the group of zombies and when he noticed a bus in the corner of his eye, his eyes lit up.

It was a luxury bus but the front had smashed into the corner of a building. The body had the words "XX City Port Group" printed on it. There was a pickup truck behind the bus. The 4m height of the vehicle would allow him to temporarily escape the zombies. The S zombies behind him were getting closer and closer so he didn't hesitate and ran to the bus.

Zhang Xiao Qiang got onto the back of the pickup truck. He climbed onto the roof and jumped onto the bus.

"Ping"

He landed on the edge of the bus. His backpack affected his landing. The top half of his body was on the roof but his lower half was scrambling to climb up but his backpack was causing him to start to slip off.

"I'm going to die because of this bag sooner or later" Zhang Xiao Qiang

scolded as he was trying to climb onto the bus. The S zombies were almost there. One hard push on the bus' windowsill gave him the little bit more force he needed to get onto the bus. Just as he pulled his legs up, he heard a bang sound. It was the body of the bus being rocked.

Zhang Xiao Qiang looked below. An S zombie was on the ground. Looks like it just rammed into the bus. Zhang Xiao Qiang lied on the roof, staring at the gloomy sky with the backpack to one side. His chest rising and falling quickly. The possibility of death just then had consumed a lot of his energy. The feeling of hunger struck once again.

Sitting up and opening the backpack he took out a few packets of instant noodles and ate them dry, leaving no time to even drink water. Zhang Xiao Qiang's rolling on the ground didn't seem to cause any damage to the military water bottle. There were just a few places where the paint had worn off.

"<<Blue Sky Internet Club opening promotion, 30/12/2012 to 1/1/2013 It will be half price. All are welcome."

"FUCK" Zhang Xiao Qiang scolded. Couldn't it be a bit earlier or a bit later. It just had to be the day that the virus outbreak occurred! No wonder so many zombies burst out.

That D zombies was currently circling around the bus, allowing Zhang Xiao Qiang to closely observe it. It was almost 2m tall, taller than other D zombies by a large portion. The other zombies dare not be close to it. Its complexion was like unprocessed bronze, dark and thick, with the texture of metal. The muscles on its body were toned, with visible intertwining veins. He could can feel the bus shaking with every step it took.

"Could it be that this is a D2 zombie from legends[TLN: I thought he came up with these names on his own?], except I don't know how many people it had eaten to become like this."

Zhang Xiao Qiang aimed his sniper crossbow at the D2 zombie. Its threat was too big so he had to get rid of him first.

This time he was using a crossbow bolt. Originally there was only 6 but one of the arrows also had undergone wear and this time its likely that he wont be able to get the bolts back.

"One must use their resources where it counts. You have to spend to achieve" Zhang Xiao Qiang mused, relaxing himself. The sight of the crosshair trained on the D2's head. He pulled his finger.

"bang..."

The bolt disappeared.

"AAOOOOO..." The D2 wailed, with a dent in its forehead. It laughed at Zhang Xiao Qiang.

"Wheres the bolt?????" Zhang Xiao Qiang looked all over the D2 trying to find it.

"plop..."

A normal D zombie fell to the ground, with the bolt piercing it from the bottom of its right ear, sticking out of its left temple. The downed D zombie was immediately flocked by the zombies.

Zhang Xiao Qiang looked at the crazy D2 and wanted to cry but there were no tears, "this is bullying, could it be that its head had armour plating???"

The crossbow firing exposed his position and the D2 rushed towards the bus. The zombies in front of it were knocked down. "Dang..." was the sound that the bus made. There was a huge dent in the side of the bus, the windows shattered and the shards fell onto the ground. Zhang Xiao Qiang who was on top of the roof was shaken and couldn't stand.

"I tried to get an advantage, but only ended up worse!"

The bus rang out as it was struck again and again. Zhang Xiao Qiang who was on the rooftop was scared by the shaking of the bus. He looked around trying to find an escape but the bus continued to be rammed by the D2. "Tong" rang out. It was holding the window's with both hands and shaking the bus, as if it was riding a mad cow. The bus didn't stop moving. Eventually it started moving and many zombies were crushed by the moving bus, getting ground up.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was getting desperate. "Does this world still have a Heaven?" he didn't believe in Christianity but began to think about life after death.

Zhang Xiao Qiang looked up at the sky, wanting to look at the sky once more before he died. Too bad the sky was blocked by a protective grill,



"It's already an apocalyptic world. There's nothing left to fear" Zhang Xiao Qiang couldn't see the sky and was filled with resentment.

"Protective grill???" Zhang Xiao Qiang's mind started to think, "Maybe it's possible!!!" He then made his decision.

He loosened the rope on his bag. The rope was tied to a blanket in his bag, then the other end of the rope will be tied to the iron hammer's handle. The bus was constantly shaking. He almost fell off the bus several times.

"Could it be that this is the car shake of legends??? [TLN: Maybe he's referring to movies where people are trapped on cars]" his hands were busy, letting his thoughts wonder. "Done" Zhang Xiao Qiang had tied the rope to the hammer. Then he started swinging it in the air above his head. The bus shook once again and the iron hammer flew off, smashing the head of a nearby S zombie, knocking it into the ground.

"No hurry no hurry! I still have a few minutes before the bus falls apart" Zhang Xiao Qiang encouraged himself as he threw out the hammer again.

"Dang..." the hammer hit the steel rails then it flew back at him quickly, hitting him between the legs. Zhang Xiao Qiang touched his crotch with his trembling left hand and after a while, he let out a sigh of relief.

The bus shook again, making Zhang Xiao Qiang risk killing himself when throwing the hammer out again and again. "Ding..." the hammer finally struck between the columns. He grabbed the rope and swung to the wall, looking to make sure his feet landed on the wall but his centre of

gravity was affected by the weight of the backpack. He hit the wall, smashing his forehead. There was blood trickling down, continuing to fall on his collar. The pain of the impact almost made him let go.

"Must be an imported bus. If it was Chinese made, I'd be dead already." He felt while climbing. Zombies started to crowd at his feet from the smell of blood. He looked down at the densely packed zombies. The several near death experiences had made his heart numb. He was no longer afraid of the zombies below. Few situations scare him anymore.

Like this one!

After being thrown with the hammer so many times, the rope had become loose. Zhang Xiao Qiang could clearly see the rope slowly slipping off the hammer. He was anxious! He started to climb faster.

Finally, when there was only 3cm of the rope left on the hammer he grabbed onto the grill. Zhang Xiao Qiang stood on the grill and looked down. The zombies were still pushing and shoving. The D2 had already split the bus into spare parts and started to head in his direction.

"Today was too unlucky. Everything went wrong but no way the grill that I'm standing on right now will fall right?"

Zhang Xiao Qiang anxiously looked at the screw which connected the grill. Luckily they were firm. He let out a sigh of relief.

Now stuck in midair, Zhang Xiao Qiang began to lament today's experience.

If he ever had children, Zhang Xiao Qiang will tell them: "The closest I ever got to losing you was 0.01cm." If I can find a woman for the rest of my life then Zhang Xiao Qiang will tell her: "The farthest I've ever been from heaven was 3cm."

The D2 zombie downstairs was growling at him. Zhang Xiao Qiang was dangling in the air as he spoke his thoughts: "Any superhero, come and save me please!!!!"

## Chinese Pork Jerky (Bakwa)

Zhang Xiao Qiang was standing on the grill, watching over the group of zombies. He felt resentment. He was resenting himself for not seeing the sign on the internet café. Resenting himself for choosing to go down this street. Even going to the development zone with a death wish is better than being here, waiting to die! He resented himself for not making an offering to his parents before leaving and now he isn't blessed. He even hated that no one was coming to save him!

After thinking for a while Zhang Xiao Qiang started to regret. He regretted not just going home but also not trying to directly go pass the truck that was blocking the road. Getting over the truck would have been easier than hanging here in mid air! He regretted that he didn't save 2 gas bombs from yesterday, even though he didn't make that many to start with.

Zhang Xiao Qiang just continued to stand on the grill with the feeling of resentment in one moment and regret in another. Below him the D2 was loudly clamouring towards him.

"dong!dong!!dong!!!"

The window behind the grill was being hit. A figure was shaking the window from behind it. "Zombie!!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang started getting tense again. "Why would I say it again???" He couldn't load his sniper crossbow now. He wasn't properly holding onto his spear, "Would I have to fight it with my knife???" Unfortunately, because of the grill, Zhang

Xiao Qiang couldn't kill it, but it could hurt Zhang Xiao Qiang. If they were to fight, Zhang Xiao Qiang would be on the losing end.

Zhang Xiao Qiang thought back to when he saw <<Finding A Fragment By Stepping Into The Past>>. A person fell into a hole and grabbed onto a vine. Below him was a bottomless pit. There was a viper next to him ready to bite him and a rat was at the root of the vine gnawing away. He also wanted to collect the honey on the vine leaves.

"Act recklessly" This was Zhang Xiao Qiang's evaluation, after returning to his current situation. Other than there not being a mouse, there's also no honey to gather. "Today I've escaped death a number of times. Is this where it will catch up to me? S zombies didn't catch me, the D2 didn't kill me but now just a mere cannon fodder will be the death of me???"

In the very last moment, Zhang Xiao Qiang felt peace. So many things happened today. So many adventures have made him mentally and physically tired. "If it's over a little earlier that would be good too" he said quietly.

"dong, dong,"

The impact sounds continued to ring out. The glass was going to break at any time. "This zombie had never eaten flesh and had never been rained on. It must just be a low level one!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang lamented, if it was a zombie that has eaten flesh then this would have been over already and he wouldn't continue to suffer.

"God! You keep messing with me! I'm not afraid of you. Follow the story and send a mouse." waiting to die has made Zhang Xiao Qiang start to

shout hysterically, making sounds that are at the same level of the D2.

"Come out quickly, mouse. Come out and big brother will give you a hug" Zhang Xiao Qiang was nervously humming a song, looking about for a mouse. The mouse in the story was gnawing at the vine above his head so Zhang Xiao Qiang looked up in search for a mouse.

"hahaahhahahaha!!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang laughed madly. Before dying he was going to entertain himself and it turns out he found the honey.

On the grill there was a large shading canopy that was blocking his vision. It's been there for quite a while and the winds by the river were quite strong so there was a thin hole in the canopy.

Zhang Xiao Qiang climbed above to the top of the fence. He pulled out the sabre toothed knife and started cutting. The PC fibres were falling around him and not long after, there was a hole big enough to fit a person. Above it were more rows of the steel grill. There was a person height of distance between the sets of grills. If he was careful, surely he would be able to climb up. "I'm not afraid of being burnt by fire." And once again, Zhang Xiao Qiang had escaped death and he started to ease up.

He climbed one layer at a time, cutting through each layer of canopy. After climbing 7 floors, he was about to reach the top.

"daaammiitttt!!!"

In saying that, one window was opened, and then another window was

closed. As a result Zhang Xiao Qiang was on the grill at the highest level.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was sure that the head of the household was a different person. This was an independent person. A person who was out of taste. A person who was a good comrade of the country's steel industry. A good subordinate, a good citizen.

"TMD. Incredibly, even though it was a stainless steel canopy, he owner was able to carry it out."

Zhang Xiao Qiang used the knife, "dang dang", even with the back of the knife, it wouldn't budge.

From here looking down, the group of zombies looked like ants crowded together. Looking up, the cold steel made his teeth tingle. Hanging on the 7th floor and on the 2nd floor were not the same. The wind in the higher levels was stronger! It was making humming sounds. Zhang Xiao Qiang was just sadly thinking about "if he just added salt and hung for another 2 days, he would become pork jerky!"

Zhang Xiao Qiang continually tried to cut it with his knife, cutting, cutting, cutting, but that piece of metal was newly installed. His hands were getting increasingly stiff. The wind was also getting stronger and he was also getting colder! Zhang Xiao Qiang knew he had to leave before dark because by the next morning, he would be a dry wax corpse.

The steel's toughness was too high. The knife was no use. Zhang Xiao Qiang put the knife away and took out his hammer and started to desperately bang it.

"bang, bang!"

Every time he hit it, it bent a little, then it would bounce back. After 99 times, on the last 1 he shivered. Could it be that he would die because of this cold! Zhang Xiao Qiang was stupidly looking at the steel.

The sky began to darken. The city in the winter is not too cold, but at night it was below 0 degrees. Zhang Xiao Qiang was hanging in the air with nothing to block the wind. The one blanket he had, he threw away to the zombies. He was hit hard. He had overcome so many dangers. Zhang Xiao Qiang couldn't believe he couldn't get through this little bit!

"dang, dang, dang!!"

The sound of the metal being hit echoed in the silent city. Zhang Xiao Qiang heard the sound back in his ear after it echoed. Zhang Xiao Qiang was acting as if he didn't feel anything. He couldn't feel anything. In his eyes was only this damn steel plate.

"pu..."

He didn't hit the steel, but started to hit the cement wall instead. A small piece of cement residue hit his face. He narrowed his eyes, aiming at the small pit in the cement wall. "Should I hit a hole in the concrete



wall???" Zhang Xiao Qiang shook his head, it was better than continuing to hit the steel plate!

Zhang Xiao Qiang continued to swing the hammer. After reaching the steel plate he stopped, "Cement wall? Steel plate? Is the steel plate nailed to the cement wall?" "HA" Zhang Xiao Qiang exclaimed. He was no longer using the hammer to pound the steel plate, but used it to hit where the steel plate and cement wall were connected. A screw in the wall that nailed the steel plate was loose. Zhang Xiao Qiang continuously hit it. His hands were beginning to ache and he was also starting to get hungry. He just continued to mechanically hit it, numbly hitting it.

The screw got looser and looser. The sky was also getting darker and darker. Between the sky and Earth, there was twilight which was illuminating the world. "siiilaaaaa"

The steel plate had finally been disconnected. It swung down and crashed into the level below. Zhang Xiao Qiang shivered as he put the hammer back into his bag. After continually hitting the cement wall and with the reflective force going back into his hand, he couldn't open his hands anymore.

Zhang Xiao Qiang used his left hand and right elbow. He was struggling to get onto the roof. Once he was up, he lied on the ground. There were too many experiences today.

## Him Again

Zhang Xiao Qiang sat on the floor, body huddled up. He ripped open a packet of instant noodles with his teeth and ate it with some water. Only after eating 5-6 bags did he stop to take a breath. He gripped his right hand into a fist, recalling today's events.

"Staying at home every day was easy, yet going out for just half a day was so hard!!!" What he encountered today was more dangerous than anything he had faced for the past half year combined. His mood swings made Zhang Xiao Qiang feel particularly tired.

Zhang Xiao Qiang also felt some pride in himself. He was able to get himself out of mortal danger several times. The crowd of zombies and the tank-like D2 didn't cause him much harm. All he suffered was a cut on his forehead.

"Could it be that I have the potential of being a main character?" Zhang Xiao Qiang was flattered when thinking this.

"Tap..."

The roof access door opened. A silhouette headed towards him. It was dark and vision wasn't clear on the dark roof. Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't know that the zombie wasn't from the crowd downstairs. He pulled up the spear. When it was about to get close, he tripped on the water heater below it. He fell onto the ground, "Have I not been toyed enough with today?" Zhang Xiao Qiang said, cursing God.

He thrust the spear in his hands towards the zombie. Unfortunately, him

lying on the ground makes him unable to use much of his strength. The spearhead stabbed into its calf. Stopping its movement for just a moment, Zhang Xiao Qiang took the opportunity to get into a kneeling position on the ground, forcing the spear further into the calf of the zombie. The zombie then lost its centre of gravity and fell onto the ground.

"vooshh..."

Zhang Xiao Qiang pulled out the spear from the zombie's brain.

When he killed this zombie, there wasn't a second zombie coming up the roof, giving Zhang Xiao Qiang a breath of air. The rooftop was already so dark. He felt around for his matches, trying to look at what the zombie looked like. Too bad the wind was too strong so he couldn't light it.

Zhang Xiao Qiang took out his hammer and used it to drag the zombie by its mouth into the corridor. He closed the roof access doors as the wind outside the door was freezing. Taking out his matches again, he saw the zombie's face with the faint flame.

It was a female zombie. Its face was black and dry, so he couldn't make out her original facial features. Her clothes were undamaged. She wore a stylish, bright red jacket and a pair of jeans,

"Her life was pretty short." Zhang Xiao Qiang concluded.

Zhang Xiao Qiang felt around, reaching the 7th floor. He used the hammer to smash a few mesh doors. There wasn't any reaction. Feeling

around the walls, he walked down, not afraid of any zombies on the stairwell. He had stayed upstairs for so long that the zombies would have been attracted to him a long time ago as the blood stain on him was a navigation light for the zombies.

Reaching the 4th floor, he stepped onto something soft. It was dark so he couldn't see it. Zhang Xiao Qiang was startled and got goose bumps! Unable to see was what he was afraid of. This fear of the unknown was more than the fear of the D2.

Zhang Xiao Qiang took 2 steps back and sat on the stairs. Taking out the matches, Zhang Xiao Qiang lit one. The faint flames were shaky and unstable. A milky white ladies bag was lying quietly on the stairs. He let out a breath of air and picked up the bag, starting to rummage through it.

There was a bundle of keys, a purse, some foundation and mascara, and also nail clippers and an eyebrow pencil. After inspecting the purse, there was an ID inside, several bank notes, and a few hundred dollars. The ID card had a picture of a young woman smiling, "Cao Xiu Yun, 12/5/1984" This must have been the zombie that Zhang Xiao Qiang killed on the roof!

"She should live here, so there must be a door in which the key fits."

He was lucky, he might not need to sleep on the concrete tonight.

"Pa..."

He threw the match onto the ground. After holding it for a long time it started to burn him. Zhang Xiao Qiang reached into his bag and pulled out a new match. He went around on the 4th floor, trying the key.

"nope"

After reaching the 3rd floor, "still no". "Could it be upstairs?"

He returned to the 5th floor.

"ka"

The security door opened and he carefully went into the living room.

The living room was big with simple décor. Zhang Xiao Qiang found a flashlight on the shelf by the door. After testing it he found that it was still working. Using the torch to search around it seems that this family used 3 rooms and one hall structure, one master bedroom, one study and one children's room.

There was a dry child's corpse on the bed of the child bed. The boy was around 5-6 years old. All that was left on the body was dried bones. Lying on the bed, it looked just like a mummy.

"Probably starved to death." Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't continue looking and walked out. There was too much tragedy in this apocalyptic world. Who knows what would happen to him tomorrow? He had no desire to always be moody and melancholic. Every day he had to work for his survival.

"Too tired" Zhang Xiao Qiang went to the master bed room and lay down on the spacious bed, closing his eyes. That night, he slept in someone else's bed with a mummy next door. He didn't even care.

The morning light was shining on Zhang Xiao Qiang's face. He opened his eye in a bit of a trance, as if he was lying on his own bed but when he saw a strange living room, strange curtains and a strange quilt, he remembered that he was on some stranger's house. He started to remember the mummy next door and remember how he escaped death again and again yesterday.

Zhang Xiao Qiang got out of bed. His body was aching a little. His stomach was calling out, reminding him that he needed sustenance. He walked to the kitchen. The ground had all kinds of snacks and snack bags. Standing in the kitchen was like standing at the edge of a garbage dump.

Opening the fridge, he saw various ingredients nicely stacked. It had been a long time so most the food had gone bad. The freezer above had a lot of frozen meat and sausages. The electricity hadn't been gone for long so the ice hadn't melted yet. Zhang Xiao Qiang found quite a bit of rice in the kitchen cupboard along with some cornflour, noodles and other grains.

"Kids nowadays! Pampered! When I was his age, I was able to already make eggs with rice." Zhang Xiao Qiang thought of the child having rice around, yet starving to death was amusing.

This family used gas. After trying it, it didn't ignite. It should be out of gas. Zhang Xiao Qiang looked around the kitchen and found a small can at the back of the cupboard, labeled "Lucky Gas". He turned on the gas, "puaaa..." blue flames appeared.

He used the leftover ingredients in the freezer to make a hearty breakfast. One pot of rice that was big enough feed 7-8 people and all the dishes were eaten by Zhang Xiao Qiang. Rubbing his stomach and burping, he said "Have I become a big eater?" It was incomprehensible. Touching his forehead, the wound from yesterday was already scarred.

Zhang Xiao Qiang used the bottled water in the living room to clean himself. He put on clean clothes from the male master of this house. Making the flour into bread and cooking all the sausages, he put them all into the backpack.

After packing, he went downstairs all the way to the bottom floor. There, he saw that outside of the gate was packed with zombies. Once the zombies smelt Zhang Xiao Qiang's smell, they were waving their arms through the gaps in the fence.

Then the zombies near the door were pushed aside and a large figure stood out.

"D2" Zhang Xiao Qiang uttered.

"Bang..."

The iron gate was deformed. He turned and started to run upstairs.

## Escape Day

Zhang Xiao Qiang put his index finger in his mouth. He closed his eyes and tried biting down.

"Didn't bite"

He couldn't find it in himself to bite down. He took out his knife but was afraid that it was infected.

"Bang, bang"

The sound of the door kept ringing out, it got annoying. He felt around to find some kind of sharp object. Feeling his crossbow, he used the arrowhead to mark his hand.

Blood came out of his index finger. Zhang Xiao Qiang painted blood on the security door from the second floor all the way to the seventh floor. He returned to the room to think of a plan.

"I can't go to the roof. There won't be a place to go but I can't just stay in this room! The security door won't hold off a D2."

Zhang Xiao Qiang went to the window and looked down. Downstairs at the back of the residential building he could see that there were fences on both sides. There was a little space where there weren't any zombies



but there was a grill blocking the windows,

“The guy who installed this grill wants people to die” He was full of resentment.

The sound of banging on the door continued. Zhang Xiao Qiang was like a headless fly scurrying around. He went to the bathroom and saw an exhaust fan on the wall. It was just big enough for a person to climb out of.

Using the hammer to climb out the knocked out exhaust fan, he poked his head out.

“It’s quite high” The distance of 5 floors was around 15-16m.

Tearing up the curtains and sheets, he tied them together and put it out the window.

“Not enough”

Zhang Xiao Qiang looked around for material that could serve as rope. The D2 had already reached downstairs and the door banging was already upstairs. The photo frame hanging on the wall was shaking.

“Really?! Pig brain!!” Zhang Xiao Qiang scolded himself. Picking up the ripped quilts, returned to the child’s room to pull the little boy’s bed sheets. “Don’t be surprised, when New Year comes, I’ll burn you unlimited money.” [TLN: burning stuff to send things to afterlife culture/religion thing] Zhang Xiao Qiang said aloud.

"Bang"

The D2 had started banging on the security door across the hall. Zhang Xiao Qiang panicked and let the rudimentary rope down. Then he dropped his backpack, satchel, water bottle and spear as well. He put his two feet outside the hole with the rest of his body in the bathroom.

"Bang, bang, bang"

The D2 knocking at the security door was like it was knocking at Zhang Xiao Qiang's heart. He was stuck in the window.

"Baaang"

The door broke open. The D2 came inside. Zhang Xiao Qiang was breathing heavily and he was slowly pushing himself outside.

"Only shoulders left" Zhang Xiao Qiang encouraged himself. He was slowly backing out, one bit at a time. His heartbeat was also increasing slowly.

The D2 went into the living room. Then into the study, into the kitchen, then into the bathroom. At that point Zhang Xiao Qiang still had half a head to get out of the window. He was stuck by the window and the zombie was standing below the window.

The bathroom was already not that big and the exhaust fan wasn't that high either. The D2 was only less than a metre away from him. Zhang Xiao Qiang did not dare to make a sound. He begged God to bless him.

The D2 sniffed the air, waving its two claws around like it wanted to carry him out. One claw was swung mercilessly at his forehead. The swing pushed his hair, moving it. He continued to have sweat cold sweat.

"Aao...."

The zombie couldn't reach him and it was angry. It waved both its arms even more vigorously. The basin and the mirror were scratched. Debris flew everywhere. The D2 could smell blood and it was coming from Zhang Xiao Qiang's head.

Zhang Xiao Qiang's brain was just blank. His knees were working to hold him on the other side of the wall and in the moment that the claws were about to hit him, Zhang Xiao Qiang managed to duck out.

He could hear the D2 let out a crazy roar. Zhang Xiao Qiang quickly descended, staring at the window, afraid that it could climb out too. The linen were sometimes loose and other times tight. The sheet that was fixed onto the window ledge was then ripped off by the D2. Zhang Xiao Qiang fell down.

"Tong"

Zhang Xiao Qiang's back knocked into something. He didn't take the time to think. He just rolled a couple times and used the force to get up.

A normal zombie was smashed by Zhang Xiao Qiang. It was lying on the ground. The tattered coat on its body had green XXs printed on it. Under the pressure of his spear, it was having trouble getting up.

Zhang Xiao Qiang lifted his foot and kicked the back of its head.

"ka"

The zombie's neck was broken. Zhang Xiao Qiang picked up his backpack and his satchel, looking around. Both sides were fenced up. There was a small shed full of flower pots and another small shed locked tightly. Outside the small shed there was an aluminum ladder used to trim trees.

Zhang Xiao Qiang placed the ladder against the fence and climbed on top of it. Outside was the riverside avenue. Zhang Xiao Qiang jumped off the wall and looked around. He had finally escaped!

The riverside avenue was recently built. The wide road was deserted. Across the fence on the sidewalk, there were several containers neatly stacked together. There were several cranes hanging amongst it all.

Zhang Xiao Qiang walked on the lonely road. The environment was quiet. There wasn't a single zombie to be seen. To tell the truth he hated killing zombies. Up till now he had killed quite a few and he even killed a

few evolved zombies. He didn't even get increase in class. [TLN: Not sure what this means. Maybe he thinks it's like a game like GDW and SW]

"If there's no meaning, then there's no reason to pay. If I don't need to then I won't kill a zombie" Zhang Xiao Qiang thought.

Next to the port was the greenbelt [TLN: like a garden I think]. Along the greenbelt was the riverside. Zhang Xiao Qiang walked through the woods, carefully bypassing a few zombies. There are usually some elderly doing some exercises by the river so they weren't very fast. Soon he was standing by the waterfront.

Looking at the broad Yangtze River, the water was slowly flowing downstream. In the clear green river, there wasn't any of the city's pollution. The water was clear. It was also somewhat fresh. Zhang Xiao Qiang walked slowly along the riverbank and he slowly relaxed his emotions.

Not long after, Zhang Xiao Qiang was blocked by a zombie. Looking ahead, there were more than a dozen wandering around in the river. The zombies were around fishing rods that were pointed at the river. They were all normal zombies so Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't want to waste the iron balls, so he went ahead with his spear.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was by the riverside killing zombies. The quiet flowing river was the same as a thousand years ago. It was carrying countless memories of the past and witnessing the changing times.

The Yangtze River, under the river, on the riverbank, the zombies and him. He did a running rump, crying out! The spear pointed ahead, his

body filled with energy. When the last zombie fell, he quietened down.

The zombies were arranged in a crisscross position. The sweat on Zhang Xiao Qiang's forehead slowly faded. Seeing that he had defeated a dozen zombies alone, he felt a burst of excitement. At first he was blocked into his room by 6 zombies. But now he can't even see his growth! Zhang Xiao Qiang couldn't believe it.

Zhang Xiao Qiang continued to slowly walk along the river. The riverside wasn't easy to walk on. From time to time there would be a place where sewage was released from the riverbank, forcing him to walk around it. Even when it was dark, he was only able to only walk half way.

He dug a hole in the sand with his military shovel. It allowed him to stay there for a night. As he huddled in, he ate two loafs of bread and had a mouthful of water.

He wrapped himself in the silk that he brought from the fifth floor tightly. The silk was smooth and delicate but it couldn't block the wind. Zhang Xiao Qiang felt colder and colder. There wasn't anything to make a fire with nearby. He then remembered the cat stone. Digging it out from his bag, he put it on his chest. A warmth radiated out, spreading from his chest to the rest of his body. Zhang Xiao Qiang listened to the sound of the river lapping against the shore and slowly fell asleep.

## Girl

Zhang Xiao Qiang awoke to the cold morning air and strong river's breeze. The fresh cold air of the winter didn't have the putrid stench like the city. The mutated cat stone continued to provide heat to Zhang Xiao Qiang's body. It was warm and Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't want to open his eyes, quietly enjoying this moment of comfort.

A warm breath of brushed over his face, he opened his eyes. There were two massive dogs before his eyes. Their breath hitting him in the face. Zhang Xiao Qiang tightened up, afraid to move.

These two big dogs were the same soviet red dogs that were near his house a few days ago. Now they were even bigger, the bigger one was already almost 180cm, the smaller one was around 170cm.

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't dare make a single movement, staying in the sand pit whilst the two big dogs sniffed around him. The mutated cat from before had caused him a lot of suffering, now there are even stronger and bigger dogs. Moreover, there were 2 of them. Zhang Xiao Qiang had a bitter taste in his mouth: "Looks like i'll be eaten by dogs, at least it's a more creative way to die." Zhang Xiao Qiang unconsciously thinking. his eyes looking around trying to secretly look at the 2 big dogs before him.

They had slender limbs, their claws were bigger than Zhang Xiao Qiang's hand, their chest was as thin as their waist. The bigger one had white spots on its forehead. The smaller one had red hair at the tip of its tail.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was waiting for them to eat him, but they lost interest, going his backpack, pulling it around on the sand and pulling it to him and making a “wu wu” sound. “Could it be?” Zhang Xiao Qiang didn’t have much more time to think, he opened the backpack and pulling out one plastic bag.

The one with the red hair tip took the plastic bag from Zhang Xiao Qiang’s hands. It used its claws to rip it open, and started eating the cooked meat and sausages inside. Not long later the food split between the two big dogs were finished.

Zhang Xiao Qiang’s heart was beating quickly, “that was 7-8 pounds of cooked meat and over 10 sausages! there’s nothing left.” After the dog with the red hair top finished, it started jumping around the bigger dog. Then the bigger dog continued to sniff at him.

“Are they still hungry?” Zhang Xiao Qiang despaired.

The big dog sniffed Zhang Xiao Qiang’s chest but didn’t do anything else, leaving him helpless. “I don’t have milk!!” Zhang Xiao Qiang cried to the big dog.

The big dog continued to sniff, Zhang Xiao Qiang’s mind lit up, taking the cat stone from his chest and handed it over, “Could it be that it wanted that?”

The big dog sniffed the stone twice, took two steps back and snorted, without the stone, the big dog brought the smaller on along the river, playing as they went.



"huuu..." zhang xiao qiang let out a sigh.

Seeing these two big dogs playing in the water, Zhang Xiao Qiang exclaimed: "dogs are just stronger than cats, no wonder taking care of a cat is different with taking care of a dog."

He ate something and carried his backpack, before beginning to embark on today's trip.

Zhang Xiao Qiang walked onto the road, the two big dogs were far behind him. Zhang Xiao Qiang stopped moving to find that they weren't coming closer. Zhang Xiao Qiang thought that the only mutation of the cat was its scarlet eyes, but the eyes of these dogs were clear. "Could it be that the mutated cat got rabies?" Zang Xiao Qiang was baffled.

This green belt is in a small square, by the side there were a few tape recorders. There were 70-80 zombies scattered on the square, one S type and two D types. "Definitely near a place where a bunch of aunties lived", Zhang Xiao Qiang jumped to a conclusion.

Zhang Xiao Qiang put his binoculars away, trying to think of a way to go around, "ssoouu...", as two figures rushed past from behind him, he quickly raised his binoculars to look at them.

The two big dogs were running circles around the zombies, biting off a zombie skull from time to time. The zombie's claws were powerless against the sturdy thick fur of the dogs. This continued until all that could be seen were zombies lying on the ground, not a single standing zombie in the whole square.

Zhang Xiao Qiang walked ahead, seeing the two big dogs bite open a few evolved zombie skulls, licking the the yellow brains. After eating the brains, the dog tore at the flesh of the D zombie and started eating that. At the side were ordinary zombies and an S zombie, but they were ignored.

The two big dogs continued to eat more of the D zombie while licking their mouths. Zhang Xiao Qiang tightened the backpack onto his shoulder and continued to move forward.

Reaching closer to the place where the urban and rural areas meet, the two big dogs rushed towards Zhang Xiao Qiang "barking" before running off in a different direction. Watching the two dog's figures gradually disappear, Zhang Xiao Qiang said "Unfortunate that I lost my two talismans"[TLN: I think he's referring to the dogs as lucky charms? cause they helped him] as he continued to move ahead.

On one side of the Yangtze river, Zhang Xiao Qiang killed an ordinary zombie. As he pulled out the spear from the head, the zombie fell to the ground, and a rusty key fell out of the zombie's pocket.

"Monster drop???" Zhang Xiao Qiang saw the key on the ground, and subconsciously looked around to find a legendary treasure chest.

There was no treasure chest, but he did find a bicycle in the vicinity. It had a basket which contained deteriorating lunch, a teacup, a portable water bottle. The back seat had a fish basket, filled with fishing equipment.

It appears that the owner was riding a bike to go fishing before he was

infected, and became a zombie just after parking the bike. The tires didn't have any air in them, they looked deflated. But Zhang Xiao Qiang found a portable foot pump in the fish basket. The owner was also a careful man.

The bike was in a good condition, the owner was parked at the bridge, escaping the corrosive rain. Zhang Xiao Qiang fully filled the air.

The end of the bridge leads into the suburbs. Zhang Xiao Qiang got on and rode it towards the suburbs.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was riding the bike on the cement path by the countryside, he was peddling quickly, he felt euphoric: "I basically own this bike!!"

Even though it was only a bicycle, and it was very different compared to a car, but it was still so much better than walking. On the road, from time to time, the scattered zombies would smell him. But Zhang Xiao Qiang just whizz past them riding his bike. Seeing the S zombie behind him getting further and further away, he happily wanted to start singing.

"There's a situation!" Zhang Xiao Qiang stopped the bike, and lifted the binoculars that he hung around his neck to observe.

Both sides of the road was a row of fishponds, on one side there was a tin hut and the other side was a car. On the rusty hut there were several characters painted with white oil paint which vaguely made out the words "tobacco, snacks, fishing equipment rental".

In front of the hut were 7-8 zombies together squatting on the ground, a clean white bone was thrown to the side, with a few of the remaining fingers clutching a bottle of mineral water.

"Bad luck!" seeing that debris Zhang Xiao Qiang was shaking his head. Initially he wanted to go round, but then he thought of how he was quickly running out of food. The 20 pounds of meat and sausages were eaten by the dogs, the 2 slices of bread left were only just enough to make 1 meal. There wasn't much rice left, he didn't have a fire so how could he just eat it raw?

so Zhang Xiao Qiang stopped by the hut, picking up his spear and going behind the zombie, it only cared about the flesh before it and ignored him.

It wasn't even hard, it was just like when Zhang Xiao Qiang was killing frogs as a child. Stabbing the zombies one at a time to death. Going into the little shed, the goods were messily placed, and there wasn't much. Zhang Xiao Qiang is afraid that zombies from far away will be attracted here, but he didn't just randomly put things into his bag, he chose all kinds of foods and mineral water to fill it. He also shoved a few beers into his pocket before leaving.

Walking towards the bicycle he saw a honda, "How unfortunate! why didn't i learn to drive?" Zhang Xiao Qiang complained. I didn't learn to drive because of a fear of death in case of an accident. Just before he left, he decided to walk up and drive it.

Zhang Xiao Qiang looked through the car window, "Not bad, it's not perfectly clear, but I can see a figure of a person"

Zhang Xiao Qiang went to the front of the honda, looking through the windshield. A person sitting in the passenger's seat was looking at the small shop. A head with shoulder length hair and body was wearing dirty clothes, which were so dirty that he was unable to tell what the original colours were.

"It's not a zombie!!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang thought, he had never seen a zombie so quiet. Zhang Xiao Qiang opened the door, and a foul smell escaped, even his nose that was used to a stench couldn't take it.

Its face was pale and malnourished, and its face was pretty clean, but its eyes were a little cloudy. Zhang Xiao Qiang got excited: "IT WAS A GIRL! and, and she's alive."

Yang Ke Er

Zhang Xiao Qiang stood outside the car and watched the girl, she was sitting in the car in a daze.

"huu are yuu"?

It had been too long since he had talked to someone else. Plus, this is the first time Zhang Xiao Qiang had seen another living person since the apocalypse. He was really excited, so his pronunciation wasn't very accurate.

"Cough, cough, who are you?" Zhang Xiao Qiang tried again.

"No response?"

Zhang Xiao Qiang waved his hands before her eyes.

"Still no response?"

Zhang Xiao Qiang put his hand on her shoulder and nudged her a few times. She was moved around by Zhang Xiao Qiang's pushing. "Still no reponse!" Zhang Xiao Qiang looked up and around. A few dozen zombies had appeared at the pond behind him. He was running out of time.

"pa..." Zhang Xiao Qiang slapped her across the face,

"waaahhh..." she started to cry. "Finally a response." Zhang Xiao Qiang said with a sigh.

"Who are you" Zhang Xiao Qiang asked.

"waaahwaaahwaaahh.."

"Stop crying" the zombies continued to increase in number, he was getting a little annoyed.

"waaahwaaahwaaahh..." ignoring him.

"pa!" he slapped her across the face again. It was like turning off a noisy music player. It was finally quiet again.

Zhang Xiao Qiang pulled the door open, put his things in and closed the door with a "ka". "Start the engine" Zhang Xiao Qiang said sitting in the back seat.

"Quickly start the car!" the surrounding zombie figures were beginning to crowd.

"Do you want to be eaten by zombies like him?" Zhang Xiao Qiang shouted, pointing at the dead body.

"Uncle, do you think this is a biochemical crisis?" the girl said to Zhang Xiao Qiang.

“un, un, uncle?????” Zhang Xiao Qiang was in the back seat, he quickly touched the beard on his face.

“Did i shave before going out? Zhang Xiao Qiang thought while feeling his stubble. “pa!!!” slapping himself, now is not the time to be thinking about this.

Zhang Xiao Qiang pointed at the bodies of the zombies scattered on the floor and cried: “what are they if not zombies?”

“They’re monsters!! Zombies in the movies are a mess of rotting flesh, they are not like this kind of monster flesh!!!” the girl argued back.

Zhang Xiao Qiang really wanted to slap her again, but if he does it might get them all killed. What kind of time is this to be arguing trivial matters like semantics.

“I don’t care if its a zombie or a monster, if you don’t want to be eaten by them then start the car” Zhang Xiao Qiang’s eyes flashed with rage, in his mind a thousand bombs just detonated.

“i don’t know how to! I’ve always wanted to learn by no one would teach me!” she said to him.

Her words were like a bolt of lightning striking his skull, leaving him fried.

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn’t say anything and got out of the car. He put on his backpack and water bottle, getting ready to leave on his bicycle. He



took one last glance back at the woman sitting in the car, to find her watching him in a daze!

"Let's go! you sitting there is waiting to be killed!" Zhang Xiao Qiang growled at him, he really didn't know how this stupid girl managed to survive this long.

"Oh..." she responded, and walked to Zhang Xiao Qiang staring at him pathetically at a loss, with tears in her eyes!

The veins on zhang xiao qiang's forehead were about to pop, "sit behind me" he roared from his chest.

She then clumsily climbed onto the bicycle frame.

Zhang Xiao Qiang then used his strength to pedal quickly leaving the scene, "ahhhh!!!" the girl at the back was screaming. She tightened her grip, Zhang Xiao Qiang was almost pulled off by this girl.

"What now???" Zhang Xiao Qiang stopped the bike and looked back at the girl. "I, I wasn't sitting right." she lowered her head like a little girl, Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't say anything more and start pedaling quickly again.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was on the bike seat, and she was sitting behind him.

He had met her at 3-4pm, they were hurrying to the road. It was getting dark, but Zhang Xiao Qiang found a small forest before it did. The small forest was by a stream. There wasn't a home within a 1km radius, so

naturally there shouldn't be any zombies around.

Zhang Xiao Qiang cut some wood for a fire with the shovel. The iron foodbox was added to the fire, cooking rice in it. Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't say a word and she didn't make a sound.

"What's your name" Zhang Xiao Qiang said breaking the silence. Although she had caused him much distress today, him being alone has also been kind of lonely, so he endured.

"Yang Ke Er" she said looking at the fire, sounding depressed.

"Yang Ke Er?" Zhang Xiao Qiang curled his tongue, feeling some resentment, Ke Er? where is it? [TLN: I believe her name has some reference to big breasts] Her body odor had a stench of urine, and her body was still underdeveloped, she was young! very young. Other people's chest areas were the size of a papaya, or an apple, or at least 2 eggs. Her? eggs, more like fried eggs. She seemed featureless, but she is youthful, which her only point of merit!

"Who was he to you?" thinking about the person that was reduced to pieces of flesh, he wasn't even sure if it was a male or a female.

But that the question made her sad so she didn't answer.

Zhang Xiao Qiang remembered seeing a pair of adidas shoes on the ground, "must have been your brother right?" Zhang Xiao Qiang thought of his own sister.

"No! it was my husband!"

Zhang Xiao Qiang glanced at her, with an appearance like this, who would have wanted her? That guy must have been really desperate and didn't have a choice! Zhang Xiao Qiang felt reverence towards his commitment! Saluting his volunteering comrade!

"How did you survive the days?" zhang xiao qiang continued to ask.

She looked up and recalled: "That day my husband and I went shopping together....."

The viral outbreak was on the day of her boyfriend's birthday, they were skipping classes to go out. They were going to the supermarket to buy food in preparation to go by to the park by the river and be alone. While they were carrying the food out of the supermarket, "the whole world changed."

"It was so scary! The people on the street were all going crazy.." she said in a trance.

90% of the people on the street began to mutate in succession, husbands eating wives, mother tearing into daughters and sons being chased and bitten by their mothers. Seeing the chaotic street, and seeing the crazy people, her knees felt weak and she knelt on the street. Her boyfriend who liked to play games had better mental fortitude, so he held her and escaped to the supply truck in the supermarket.

"Those monsters kept hitting the car. No one was picking up the phone,

no one picked up when we dialed 110, my mom and dad weren't picking up either, i was really afraid!" She said while eating rice.

"I haven't had rice in so so long, it smells so nice.." her mouth was a little busy, so Zhang Xiao Qiang started eating his biscuits and she continued her story.

"Uncle! do you carry meat in your bag? I haven't had that in a long time either!" she said pitifully, with a few grains of mouth still in her mouth.

"It was fed to the dogs!" Zhang Xiao Qiang did not respond politely, biting into the biscuits and imagining himself biting into <<braised dog meat>>.

"If you don't have any then that's fine!! so short tempered! Oh, it was a good thing it rained heavily for a few days..." she ate and continued.

After the heavy rain the zombies started to evolve, becoming to threat to them.

"The monsters were constantly scratching away at the vehicle, from the morning to the evening never stopping, I was so afraid that they would finally scratch through. The monsters also rammed the car, shaking it. It was so scary! Luckily my husband was there with me!"

And like this she and her boyfriend stayed in a supply truck eating and drinking the supplies for 3 months. Eating and sleeping in the truck, up until yesterday.

"We heard a car coming so we looked through a crack in the door.."

Two men drove a honda to the supermarket to find food, unfortunately they never came back out. Her boyfriend's dad was a pickup truck driver, so her boyfriend learned to drive small truck at home. So while the zombies were in the supermarket they took the opportunity to run, using the honda the boyfriend drove out of the city. Reaching the suburbs they saw a small shop. After having cold beverages for months he wanted something different, and so eventually he ended up in the zombie's stomach

"That's it!!!" she finally said.

Zhang Xiao Qiang looked at the fire then his watch, 10.05, a few small incidents took her 4 hours to tell. Most of the time it was her being scared and her husband being good to her.

Zhang Xiao Qiang threw the thick silk quilt at her, saying 2 words: "good night".

## Peeking at Yang Ke Er

Translator : WhatTranslate

Editor: DT

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't sleep well last night. Ever since the 2 big dogs woke him up, he had become insecure when sleeping, making his sleep very light. Just a breeze swaying the grass would wake him up and make him start patrolling the surrounding area with his spear. After making sure that nothing was out of the ordinary he would add more wood to the fire and continue sleeping.

Its not that he didn't want to wake up Yang Ke Er to keep watch, but seeing her curled up by the campfire, wrapped in blankets and sleeping tight, Zhang Xiao Qiang shook his head. Getting her to keep watch would basically be the same as not having anyone keep watch. Just like this Zhang Xiao Qiang kept tossing about until daybreak, and after waking up Yang Ke Er he decided to take a nap.

The fire continued to burn, boiling the water in the lunchboxes, waiting to use the boiling water to make tea. In the absence of vegetables, the only replacement was tea.

"Uncle!" Yang Ke Er called out weakly from the side.

"What????" Zhang Xiao Qiang said not looking up from the flames.

"Can I go wash myself???"

"The creek doesn't have a lid, go wash yourself!" Zhang Xiao Qiang muffled in reply.

"There are dirty things in the water!" Yang Ke Er's voice was getting louder.

"???????" Zhang Xiao Qiang looked at her with questioning eyes.

"Yesterday, my husband and I drove out of the city..." Yang Ke Er started telling her story again.

Yesterday, as they drove out of the city, there was a survivor in a residential building. That survivor was trapped upstairs and asked them for help, and her boyfriend said that the zombies downstairs made it impossible to pass. The survivor then motioned for them to drive the truck to the back.

Behind the building was a lawn, and because the surrounding suburbs had not be developed, normally there wouldn't be many people there, and so naturally there wouldn't be many zombies either. After they stopped behind the building, the survivor escaped from the roof using the PVC drain pipe, climbing down and going out of the city with them.

The survivor was a middle aged man over 40 years old, he was also a believer in the 2012 doomsday, so he relied on the food that he stored in his house to survive till now. Unfortunately while he had food he didn't have enough water. It seemed like he was about to die of dehydration before he met them.

They didn't get a chance to find a bottle of water on the road, but she and her boyfriend did keep a few bottles of soft drink. However people are selfish. Her boyfriend said that they didn't have any water, and that they were going to think of something after leaving the city.

That man after seeing a pool of water by the road couldn't take it anymore. He got out of the car and drank as much as he could. After getting back into a car for 10 minutes, the middle aged man felt like throwing up, so he threw up out the window of the car.

After throwing up again and again! That man became a zombie.

"There's definitely something wrong with the water!! It was so scary. Before he turned into the monster he was just sitting behind me. Now that I think of it, I feel scared!" she said sounding like she had more to say and patting her chest.

That unlucky kid must have drank a large amount of rain water. Zhang



Xiao Qiang only had a few drops splashed into his mouth before he went through a large amount of suffering, while that guy drank till he was full. If he didn't become a zombie it wouldn't be fair.

"As long as you don't drink any, nothing will happen!" Zhang Xiao Qiang taught her through experience, thinking about the time he was completely drenched in rainwater but was completely fine!

She looked down at her legs, not making a sound, silently protesting at Zhang Xiao Qiang.

"Look" Zhang Xiao Qiang said as he went passed her, walked to the creek and started to wash his hands. The stream was cool in the early morning, chilling his hands stiff. A few months without the humans polluting it, the water was clear and bright without the slightest impurity.

Zhang Xiao Qiang stood up and flung the water on his hands, some of it hit the fire causing it to roar. Yang Ke Er who was watching him took a few steps back. Feeling unsafe she took a few more steps back. She kept going until she felt safe before stopping to observe him.

Seeing her intently observing his actions, made him uncomfortable. "Not thick skinned enough!" Zhang Xiao Qiang said in self-contempt. He couldn't even stand a little girl's gaze.

5 minutes... 10 minutes... half an hour... After 1 hour she was still staring at him. "Are you done???" Zhang Xiao Qiang grew weary.

Yang Ke Er at this time then hesitatingly headed towards him, taking 3 steps forward and 1 step back before standing 5m away and no longer wanting to get any closer: "You really haven't become a monster?" she asked in a sceptical tone.

"Do monsters talk to people about ideas? Or teach you how to wash??" Zhang Xiao Qiang said impatiently.

"Oh!" Yang Ke Er relaxed, and walked by the stream. Turning her head at Zhang Xiao Qiang she said: "Can you turn away?"

"You can wash yourself somewhere where I cant see you!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang responded unyieldingly.

"If I can't see you I'll be scared of the monsters!!" Yang Ke Er pulled an unfair card. Zhang Xiao Qiang turned around.

After ten or so minutes had passed, Zhang Xiao Qiang once again looked over at her. He was not some sort of righteous gentleman, and so naturally would not give up on an opportunity to take advantage of the situation. Yang Ke(r) had stripped down to her underwear. She seemed to notice something, and slightly turned her body.

When she turned away, there was naturally nothing to see, so he put on

the behaviour of a gentleman.

Zhang Xiao Qiang started to sneak a peek again, the early spring coolness had not yet passed. Yang Ke Er rubbed her arm, and her little calf was gently shivering. Her desire to be clean overwhelmed her fear of the cold. Yang Ke Er took off her bra, and Zhang Xiao Qiang's eyes moved up.

"What? Those fried eggs were pushed up by the bra? What are they then? Fried quail eggs?" Zhang Xiao Qiang felt cheated. PASS.

His eyes moved towards her hips. She was wearing cute sky blue underwear with crayons printed on them. The cute underwear was supposed to be tight fitting, but they were a little loose on her, had he not seen her delicate white thighs, Zhang Xiao Qiang would have thought those were a zombie's butt. Nothing in that department either. PASS.

Finally he hopefully glanced at her waist, "Where is her waist?" Her upper body and lower body were of the same thickness, nothing there either. PASS.

Zhang Xiao Qiang felt lost, he tried so hard to find something but found nothing. No chest, no waist, and no hips.

Not long after she finished washing, wearing only long johns, she began washing her clothes in the stream. He watched as the water turned from brightly clear to muddy black. Zhang Xiao Qiang sighed, "How dirty was she!!"

After washing her clothes she gathered them around the fire to dry them. Zhang Xiao Qiang was cooking a meal, calculating how much he needed to make for an extra person. Right now they can only have 2 meals a day, Yang Ke Er would ignore any opinions that Zhang Xiao Qiang might have.

Yang Ke Er held onto the lunchbox and ate. Zhang Xiao Qiang was also holding the lid of the lunchbox while eating fragrant glutinous thai rice accompanied with chilli sauce and sweet beef sauce mix.

Yang Ke Er took a few bites "Wow..." and threw up acidic water onto the ground.

She isn't infected is she? "Whats wrong?" Zhang Xiao Qiang carefully took a step back as he asked the question.

She looked at him pitifully, "I might be pregnant!!" "Huff..." Zhang Xiao Qiang let out a breath of air. As long as she's not infected it's fine.

"If you're pregnant then you're pregnant. Just give birth!" Zhang Xiao

Qiang said without care.

"I don't want to be a mother so early, I'm only 14! Boohoo..." she started crying.

"Badang!" The lid in Zhang Xiao Qiang's hands fell onto the ground. He was a little dizzy. He had thought all this time that she was 17-18 years old, since her height and appearance seemed that way!

"What can I do as a 14 year old? Catch loaches, hang frogs, not do homework, draw transformers on textbooks!" The most intimate contact that Zhang Xiao Qiang had with a girl at that age were, drawing a turtle on the back of a girl's seat, he tore her textbook, and she gave him a slap!

Zhang Xiao Qiang once again thought about how that slap felt, Zhang Xiao Qiang stroked his cheek as he looked at her crying loudly.

Is this world changing too quickly, or I just don't understand it?

"You're already messing with love at such a young age?" Zhang Xiao Qiang carefully asked.

"My whole class does it! A girl that can't find a husband would be laughed at, and boys that can't find a wife are known to be incompetent! Boohooo..." she said as she was crying.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was once again speechless. He claimed to be a new era recluse, but now he realised he couldn't even keep up with the times!?

"Why did you do stuff like this so early? This isn't good for your body." Zhang Xiao Qiang guiltily said to her, fearing that she would find him old-fashioned.

"I didn't want to either, but in the container, other than making love what else was there to do!!!" she said to him confidently.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was completely silent.

## Yang Ke Er's Strangeness

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't bother with her anymore. He quietly packed up their bags and got ready to go. Yang Ke Er eventually grew tired of crying and slowly calmed down. Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't know where to go, when he was at home his goal was to escape the city, now that he's out of the city, he's lost!

Zhang Xiao Qiang just rode along the road on the bike, with Yang Ke Er behind him.

Along the side of the roads were row after rows of rice paddies, like a chequered clothes scattered along the pond. The coming of springtime meant that branches on the trees were growing anew. There were already swallows flying by the river stream in the distance. The scene ahead was covered in fresh green.

Girls nowadays seem really heartless. Yang Ke Er, who is behind him had already recovered. The issue of her pregnancy tossed aside.

"Uncle! The stick you have on you is poking into me!" Yang Ke Er said while pulling at the spear in Zhang Xiao Qiang's backpack.

Hearing her say something about a stick and poking, he almost drove the front of the bike into a ditch!

"Just endure it!" Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't look back. He just said these 3 words.

"Your stick poking me really, really hurts!" Yang Ke Er was still pulling at the spear.

Zhang Xiao Qiang was riding the bike. His nose was hot. It felt almost like his nose was about to bleed, then he turned his head, willing his thoughts to the morning bath scene, to shake him out of it. Thinking of how featureless she was, it cooled him down like ice water from the winter.

Zhang Xiao Qiang stopped caring about what she said and continued pedalling, but she only became more animated.

"Uncle, did you kill all those monsters from yesterday alone? You're so strong!" she suddenly thought of.

"Uncle, where do you live? What do you do?" The life of a recluse wasn't something particularly exciting so he kept quiet.

"Uncle, does carrying the backpack and cycling make you tired? Do you want to take a break? Sitting at the back makes my butt hurt!" Do you not see the zombies by the side of the road? Zhang Xiao Qiang muttered, continuing to ignore her.

"Uncle, what does your mum do? My mum works at XX, so its possible that they know each other!" Her mouth was like an unzipped zipper, talking non-stop. Zhang Xiao Qiang felt like there was something next to his ear making a "buzzing" sound.

"Uncle, what does your dad do..."



HELP!!!

Thinking back to that time when he saw <<The Monkey King's journey to the west>>.

"She's just like a fly buzzing... buzz... buzz... all the time, never stopping. I really want strangle her and take out her intestines and wrap her neck with it. Ahh!! Then the whole world would be quiet."

Zhang Xiao Qiang was suddenly filled with an urge to kick her off the bike, grab her neck and choke her.

"If you don't want to die then shut up!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang roared.

The noise behind him disappeared. The whole world was quiet, too bad it was only quiet for 2-3 minutes.

"Mum!! Dad!! I'm so scared!! Boooohooooo..." she burst into tears. The zombies in the distance were attracted to them because of her crying.

Zhang Xiao Qiang regretted his decision. He shouldn't have saved her yesterday. She's just a brain dead loli. She is unable to discern the situation. She can't see the zombies by the side of the road, only knowing how to cry.

Zhang Xiao Qiang wanted to leave her alone on the road and leave, but he couldn't get the resolve to do it. He was a recluse, not a murderer.

"Hey little sister, don't cry anymore, I was wrong alright? If you keep crying you'll attract the monsters!" Seeing that there was a passenger bus by the side of the road, surrounded by dozens of zombies. Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't want Yang Ke Er's weeping sounds to attract them.

At least Yang Ke Er wasn't completely dumb. She stopped crying and just sobbed behind him. He rode the bike and rushed past the bus. The zombies were trying to follow him from behind.

"Crunch"

Zhang Xiao Qiang stopped the bike, putting one foot on the ground. On the right, there was an S zombie rushing towards him from the road ahead. It was blocking the road.

"Quickly escape! The monster is about to catch up!" Yang Ke Er cried out in a hurry. The S zombie's speed was too fast, if he were to ride past it, it would definitely pull them off the bike.

It appeared too suddenly, so Zhang Xiao Qiang was unprepared. The zombies from behind were getting closer and closer. The back of the bike was also carrying something cumbersome.

"Get off the bike" Zhang Xiao Qiang yelled, and he pulled out the hammer and headed towards the S zombie.

There was no movement from behind him.

"There are monsters!!" Yang Ke Er protested.

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't bother with her. He got off the bike first. He didn't have time to get out his spear, so he took out his knife.

"Crash"

The bike crashed into the ground. Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't bother to look back to see if she was dead or alive.

Numerous encounters at fighting zombies have given him the experience to come up with a plan. Although he didn't have his spear in hand, it was only 1 S zombie so Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't feel afraid.

The hammer smashed into its chest. It recoiled and took 2 steps back. Zhang Xiao Qiang rushed towards its side and cut at its neck. At the same time it also felt that Zhang Xiao Qiang was near it, so it swung its arm to grab him.

The knife hit the nails of its claws, making an ear piercing metallic sound.

"FUCK, what kind of nails did it grow? Are they like Wolverine's?" Zhang Xiao Qiang was surprised.

The knife was knocked aside by the claw, and the other claw started to swing towards him. Zhang Xiao Qiang leaned his head back. The claw swung just before his eyes, giving him a mouthful of the corpse's stench.

Then Zhang Xiao Qiang kicked the zombie in the thigh. It fell back and sat on the floor. While it was struggling to climb back up, Zhang Xiao Qiang ran up behind it, gripped the knife and pointed it downwards.

The blade pierced the zombie's head till it was stuck. Zhang Xiao Qiang yanked it back up, but it was stuck in its skull, so Zhang Xiao Qiang used the zombie's shoulder as a footrest to force the knife back out.

Yang Ke Er was letting out a bloodcurdling scream at the side. Listening to it chilled Zhang Xiao Qiang to the bone.

"That Yang Ke Er must be food to the zombies by now!" Zhang Xiao Qiang exclaimed as he looked towards the bicycle.

"Pfffsshhh!" Zhang Xiao Qiang spurted with a smile. That girl ran to the boundary between paddy fields, screaming, running and jumping at the same time. The zombies behind her were pushing and shoving in a row. Every now and then a zombie would trip over into the paddy field. Just like a girl in a game pulling along a train, every time the zombies couldn't keep up and were about to be left behind, she would look back at the zombies bewildered and once she saw a zombie she would scream and continue to lead them around.

"She's just too talented! Her running speed was at such a strange place; just enough to not get caught by the zombies and not enough to leave the zombies behind. The entire process flowed smoothly. It was just very amusing to watch."

If you didn't know she was scared, you would think that she was excited

right now.

“Quickly come!!” Zhang Xiao Qiang cried at her. She didn’t have any reaction to the outside world, all she did was bow her head and yell and run and jump.

Zhang Xiao Qiang set up the bicycle and rode near her, she was writhing around as he tried to get her, as if she didn’t know him. Zhang Xiao Qiang put her on his shoulders and started heading in the other direction. She was deliriously searching around his backpack while on his shoulder.

Zhang Xiao Qiang put her on the frame of the bicycle, and started pedalling ahead.

An acre of paddy field slowly slid away from sight. She also sat in silence. It was getting dark, and the night will come once again.

# I'd Rather Die Than Let Go

Translator/Editor: Dookie

The bright camp fire warms the body, as Zhang Xiao Qiang sits by the fire casually sharpening his army knife. While Ke Er holds onto the silk blanket tightly and stares blankly at the fire, her body trembling uncontrollably and the food next to her left untouched. Probably traumatised.

Zhang Xiao Qiang looks away, not caring about her and continues to sharpen his knife with a millstone. The continuous usage from previous days has damaged and blunted the Tiger Tooth Sword; the weapon to keep him alive should of course be taken care of.

Other than the sounds from the burning firewood, only the sounds of him sharpening his sword fill the air of the night.

"Sir, do you think I will die?" Ke Er suddenly asks Zhang Xiao Qiang with a light in her eyes.

"Yes! Maybe tomorrow, maybe the next, maybe next month, maybe next year, it all depends on your luck!" Zhang Xiao Qiang says confidently, as he reminisces the first time he faced a zombie, charging it with a pan lid.

"Sir, will you protect me?" Ke Er asks with a sign of plead of desperation in her eyes as she looks at Zhang Xiao Qiang

"No! I'm not even sure if I'll be able to live myself, maybe I'll die right in front of you tomorrow" Zhang Xiao Qiang replies, this time with even

more confidence, as he recall the time he was covered in wounds facing a mutant cat. The time pinned on top of a bus, feeling the wrath of a D2 zombie. And also the time he was hung on a safety fence, unable to move with the feeling of completely hopelessness.

The light that was in Ke Er's eyes dimmed down, with a face of despair. "She's already feeling hopeless" Zhang Xiao Qiang thinks to himself as he looks at her facial expressions.

She stops talking and Zhang Xiao Qiang also remains silent, as he continues to admire his army knife using the light from the fire. The longer he look, the more restless he becomes. An image of him waking up to a hopeless and despair apocalyptic reality flashes across his mind.

"Do you want to live?" Zhang Xiao Qiang asks suddenly, breaking the silence

Girl slowly looks up to him in confusion.

"Do you want to continue to live?" Zhang Xiao Qiang asks again, the light in her eyes appearing again as she nods.

"If you want to continue living in this apocalyptic world, you have to depend on yourself." As Zhang Xiao Qiang recalls himself training at home with his gun.

"Depend on myself???" Ke Er asks with doubts

"From now on you have to forget everything from the past," Zhang Xiao Qiang says, looking at her

"You are no longer daddy and mommy's little girl, you are no longer the mischievous student in class, you even have to go beyond that and forget that you're a woman," Zhang Xiao Qiang suddenly recalls his days of living the happy otaku life.

"You have to learn to observe the zombies, face the zombies and until you become able to kill a zombie." Zhang Xiao Qiang continues to lecture, from a perspective of a veteran.

"How am I supposed to kill?" Ke Er asks

"You're very nimble and agile, you've got pretty good speed as well." Zhang Xiao Qiang recalling the time she pulled the train to distract the zombies.

"As long as you're not scared, the zombies won't be able to catch you, you only have to worry about the evolved zombies....."

Zhang Xiao Qiang continues to pass on his knowledge from experience, telling her about his past encounters, as Ke Er's confidence starts to grow.

"Thanks sir!" Ke Er says with gratitude

"Sleep early, we'll start training tomorrow" Zhang Xiao Qiang says

"Ok," Ke Er says as she begins lying down in her blankets, "Sir, when you looked at me showering this morning, what did you think? Did you like what you saw?" she asks, out of nowhere.

"It was my loss, no boobs, no waist, no ass; you don't even have one out of the 3 good traits!!" Zhang Xiao Qiang sighs



"Hmm!" Ke Er turns, facing away from him and ignoring him

As the night goes on, the cold starts to creep in, Ke Er moves closer towards the fire as she falls asleep, Zhang Xiao Qiang places some firewood between her and the fire, in case she rolls into it during her sleep.

Zhang Xiao Qiang wants to sleep, but the possibility of something happening during the night haunts him. This paranoia makes restless. Not knowing when the zombies will come and go. Every time they come, it means that he's screwed. First time he struggled until near death during heavy rain, second time he was attacked by a mutant cat, and this will be the third time.

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't want to wake Ke Er, he doesn't know when danger will strike, nor does he know where it will come from. At least for now he has Ke Er in his sight so he is able to protect her.

The late night wind blows, as the fire dances beautifully like fairies, completely mesmerising. Zhang Xiao Qiang can no longer feel the warmth from the fire, as the feeling of uneasiness creeps into his bones.

Zhang Xiao Qiang picks up his sniping cross bow and nocks an arrow, which is a luxury to use. He checks the knife on his belt, spear in his hand. Still feeling unprepared, he picks up a hammer and puts it into his belt.

Zhang Xiao Qiang sits by the fire, awaiting the unknown that is to come, as time passes, he becomes more and more nervous. Zhang Xiao Qiang hates this feeling, the feeling of not being in control. Instead you can only be a little chest piece which can be trampled on anytime. He'd rather face a D2 zombie than to have to have to wait for this unseen

danger.

Time passes on for who knows how long, a giant ancient beast like figure appears in the distant light Zhang Xiao Qiang observes it carefully

A big head with two strong horns appears, almost as if they are sharp enough to pierce the night. The spiral and sharp horn shimmers in the fire light, almost like metal.

Two large hooves allows it to stand strongly, the rest of the body is unseen due to the body, "What kind of monster is this?"

Zhang Xiao Qiang does not know how this mutant monster came to be like this, but those big sharp horns and strong hooves are definitely powerful.

Zhang Xiao Qiang is frozen in fear, fear that the beast may mistake him as a threat. After his experience with the big dogs, he knows that not all mutant animals are a threat to humans. His breathing slows down, completely still. Praying that the monster will leave by itself.

The beast walks towards the fire, curious yet slightly scared, very careful. It completely ignores Zhang Xiao Qiang who is by the fire

Zhang Xiao Qiang also careful observes the beast, standing in at about 160cm, with a slightly yellow coating, body as thick and strong as a wall. When carefully observed, it slightly resembles a mountain goat. The goats that he have seen has short and thick horns, bending slightly backwards. This monster however, has the horn of an African gazelle, long

and straight.

As time slowly passes, the monster continues to move closer, Zhang Xiao Qiang prepares himself and becomes very alert. He aims between the eyes of the beast with his crossbow. The atmosphere becomes eerie; the monster takes his interest in the fire as Zhang Xiao Qiang aims at the beast, Ke Er sleeping by the fire, completely oblivious of the situation.

The beast seems to lose its interest in the fire and begins to take a step back to leave.

"Pa", an ember bursts out from the burning firewood, startling the beast as it charges towards the fire, horns pointing in an attack position. Not knowing the beast is targeting the fire, he fires the crossbow, straight onto the forehead of the beast, the crown of the arrow shaking ever so lightly.

The monster stops in his tracks, with the arrow still on his forehead, charges at Zhang Xiao Qiang. Zhang Xiao Qiang feels bitter in his mouth, how can you kill something that can't be killed by a crossbow?

Zhang Xiao Qiang throws away the crossbow and holds onto his metal spear. "I'll give it my all!". There's nowhere to run, escaping into the darkness is an even quicker death.

The beast seems to be in extreme pain, as he tries to take out the arrow. Failing to do so, he redirects his anger towards Zhang Xiao Qiang.

It tramples the ground a couple times and charges at Zhang Xiao

Qiang with its two big horns directly pointing towards Zhang Xiao Qiang.

He places the end of the spear on the ground for support and readies his stance to face the beast, the spear pointing towards the beast's forehead, as he waits for it to charge into it.

The beast charges, speed not up to par with the mutant cats but its power is on the same level with the D2 zombies. Zhang Xiao Qiang rolls towards the side the moment contact is made.

"Pong, Pa". The first sound is the crash and the second sound is the spear breaking into two pieces. As Zhang Xiao Qiang hears the cracking of the spear on the ground, his heart becomes cold.

The huge colliding power also damaged the beast, he stumbles. He shook his head trying to clear the grogginess. A chance he won't get again, he charges forwards and catapults himself onto the beast. Left hand holding onto its mane, right hand thrusts the army knife towards his neck.

"Dong!" the sound of the knife piercing through his leather like skin, and yanks the blade out. The monster, enraged, begins to flail about.

Zhang Xiao Qiang throws down his knife and puts the monster into a headlock. He only has one thought in his mind, "I'd rather die than to let go".

A big piece of meat

Translator: WhatTranslate

Editor: xXmA5ta0f5hAd0WZzzXx

The beast violently thrashed around the campfire, throwing Zhang Xiao Qiang around like a ragdoll. Dizzy and unable to keep his sense of direction, he vomited, as he clung to its back in desperation. If not for the searing pain in his hands, he would have thought that he had lost his limbs long ago. Suddenly, there was a bump. It seemed to have broken his tailbone as he felt a numbing sensation creep from his hips to waist.

“Wahh...” Zhang Xiao Qiang cried out. Now, he was continuously vomiting, but all he could taste was the bitterness of only the bile that remained. The monster carried him on its back, unrelenting in its rampage. All his joints felt as though they had been torn apart. Unable to muster up the strength to fight, all he could do was clamp onto its neck and waist.

In the corner of his mouth, he could taste a faint sweetness; Zhang Xiao Qiang had bit down too hard, and his gums were starting to bleed. It was hard to keep his eyes open; he could feel the unconsciousness quickly coming upon him.

Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't know where it would take him, nor did he know what fate awaited him, but none of that mattered now. He was

already riding it and it was too late to get off.

Reaching a galloping pace, the wind began to sting Zhang Xiao Qiang's eyes, so he buried his face into the beast's back. He could hear the wind as it whipped through its fur and the steady, rhythmic pounding of its feet. His body felt the vibrations and the bumps in its body. His mind was blank, he didn't care about anything, only the peace of the coming end.

After some time, the sky began to lighten. The beast also started to slow down, and touching its neck, he could feel some wet fur. Only when the sky was completely bright, did it reduce its pace to a trot, panting heavily.

"Here's my chance!" he realised, releasing his hands and grabbing onto the horns of its head, pushing it forwards. Zhang Xiao Qiang sat on its neck, his legs tightly wrapped around its throat.

Holding onto its horn with his left hand, he drew out the hammer from his waist and smashed it down forcefully onto its head. "Eeee..." the beast let out a wail as it tried to throw him off. Zhang Xiao Qiang started to feel faint again.

However, its bucking stopped, and Zhang Xiao Qiang struck its head again, causing the beast to shake its head once more. At that point, he stopped, so as to avoid being thrown off, and once it had, continued his attack.

This happened in turn, over and over, eventually tiring the beast, however, Zhang Xiao Qiang was losing the strength to hold on. Suddenly, as he leaned back, the beast stood up, throwing him backwards.

But as he fell, he managed to grab on to its horn and held on, waiting for it to return to the ground.

Out of the corner of his eye, he spotted the crossbow arrow firmly embedded in its forehead, lodged just deep enough to hit bone but not the brain, making it painful but not fatal.

Zhang Xiao Qiang saw hope, and gathering himself, he sat on its back and waited for an opportunity.

"Another chance!" it stood up again.

Zhang Xiao Qiang grabbed onto the horn, left leg wrapped around its chin, right foot on its back, and straightened himself up. "Dang" the hammer hit the tail of the arrow, causing it to sink further into the beast's forehead. "Eeeee..." it moaned again loudly, leaving his ears buzzing.

The beast continued to leap up and down; sitting on the top of it, he felt like he was flying up and then falling. The hammer flew out of his hands, the left hand that was holding onto the horn was now bloodied from grinding.

He did not know how long it would be until it finally ceased, before it, taking a few steps back... then a few more, fell down sideways onto the ground. Zhang Xiao Qiang didn't let go, and so was thrown onto the ground with it.

He groaned as he pulled his left leg out from underneath it. Unable to

feel anything, he rubbed his calf to which there was a slight pain. "Is it broken?" he worried, and checked it more carefully.

The leg bone was fine, but his left foot was hanging off his leg, "It's dislocated." Zhang Xiao Qiang gently pushed it a few times and until it suddenly moved up.

"Sshhhh..." he breathed in painfully, and looked again; it still wasn't connected.

"I've never learnt to do this," he chuckled to himself nonchalantly.

After several attempts, and torturing his feet in the process, he finally managed to fix it. The wounded Zhang Xiao Qiang looked over at the slain beast.

"Morning! Uncle, waaa! That's a big goat!!!" Yang Ke Er exclaimed from behind.

Zhang Xiao Qiang turned around to see that the camp was only 10m away. Smoke gently wafted away in the breeze from the now extinguished camp fire. Yang Ke Er sleepily looked at the mutated beast's body; he had spent one night riding the beast and ended back at the starting point.

He shifted his gaze to her, then to the sky, which was completely bright. A wave of weariness washed over him. "Don't worry about me, im going to sleep" Zhang Xiao Qiang said hoarsely, as he lay on the carcass which was still warm and fell asleep.



A little girl was playing leapfrog at the same time, as she panted continuously. Zhang Xiao Qiang looked at the two large horns on their sides. The big horn, around 60-70cm in length, was engraved with spiralling lines from the top to bottom. They both felt like they were made of jade and knocking them together made a brittle metal sound. The big horn was hollow, thick at the bottom and thin on the top. The top was sharp and felt firm, there was no trace of the knife cuts, but it had a cutting edge.

"It really is a treasure!" exclaimed Zhang Xiao Qiang as he ran his hands over it. Looking carefully he saw the smooth fine lines, admiring its mystery and elegance. Even though he wanted to take it off he was afraid to do so.

A knife would have no effect and his hammer would only smash it. Mulling it over in his mind, he decided to take the steel crossbow bolts and use the hammer to slowly chisel away at the horn of the beast.

By the side there were some bamboo poles with pieces of animal fur. The hide was also a treasure; poking it did not damage it in the slightest, but it was still soft. As he was pulling it off, his head started to hurt from a wound he had sustained, so he used his shovel to slowly strip it away. Now the beast lay there naked.

"Uncle, that was 2000 times!" Yang Ke Er reminded Zhang Xiao Qiang that she had done 2000 jumping jacks.

"Rest for a while, then do another 2000!" he responded casually, wondering what good the two horns could do?

"Uncle" Yang Ke Er said.

"?????" Zhang Xiao Qiang looked at her.

"It's a lot of physical work, is there any meat to eat? Otherwise I can't keep jumping!" Yang Ke Er complained.

"No!" Zhang Xiao Qiang was definite.

"Isn't that a big piece of meat?" Yang Ke Er pointed to the naked beast.

"Huh?" Zhang Xiao Qiang began to think.

Zombies eat flesh and mutated dogs eat zombies, however, the dogs did not become infected after consuming their virus-infected flesh. This means that the virus in the meat will let it evolve but not mutate, furthermore indicating that there are some substances in the animal that will produce a positive response when combined with the virus. Therefore, animals must be immune to the virus.

Zombies don't eat other zombies, because their flesh will have no effect on their evolution. Zombies must then be only interested in virus-free flesh.

Previously, the zombies had surrounded the dogs, so naturally they would have wanted to eat the dog's meat. This means that the flesh of the large dogs had no virus, as it had already been cleared by the

animal's body!

"Which means you can eat it and it'll be fine!" Zhang Xiao Qiang realised.

"Uncle, can I!" Yang Ke Er persisted.

"Continue to train, we'll talk come dinner time!" Zhang Xiao Qiang said.

"Yeeeeesss!!! Theres gonna be meat to eat tonight!" Zhang Xiao Qiang bounded away, in high spirits.

Just call me cockroach!

Translator: chinesenoveltranslated

"To eat or not to eat, that is a question." Zhang Xiao Qiang was staring at the big piece of meat as he thought to himself.

"It will be great if we can find someone to try it out..." Zhang Xiao Qiang took a glance at Yang Ke Er but eventually decided to drop the idea to make her test out the meat as she is still a young girl, even though she is a little brainless, and no longer pure (like a virgin). But it is a norm to not be a virgin. Someone once said "Virgin? You have to go to the elementary school to find one" But Zhang Xiao Qiang still thinks that one should be able to find a virgin in high school.

Zhang Xiao Qiang looked back to the meat, the color of the meat has turned slightly black, maybe because no one released the blood from the meat in time and all the blood has flown back into the meat.

Swallowing his saliva, he started to have strong cravings as he had not eaten any meat for the past few days. He started limping towards the meat, stopping right in front of it. He used his knife and cut a big piece of meat. Closing his eyes, he started to stuff the meat into his mouth.

Right before he put the meat into his mouth, he stopped as the strong stanch of the raw meat jammed the nerves in his nose. He walked over to the bonfire and started to barbeque the meat until the meat start to turn

slightly yellow and smelled nice. Relying on his body that had just passed the test of the weird rain, he stuffed the meat into his mouth.

"It's a little tough!" Zhang Xiao Qiang said. "Oh it got stuck in between my teeth," as he summarizes the tasting session.

"Are you done? I can't wait anymore!" Yang Ke Er asks while she barbeques the monster's hind leg by the bonfire. Zhang Xiao Qiang took a look at the meat and said "not yet".

After seeing that Zhang Xiao Qiang did not react badly to the meat, the little girl also ate the meat. This proves that Zhang Xiao Qiang's theory is right, the D virus is bad for humans but it does not affect animals negatively.

"I wonder if the monkey will turn into zombie monkey?" that thought came to Zhang Xiao Qiang while he was looking at the bonfire.

"It's burnt! It's burnt! I said it's done but uncle don't believe, hmmpf!" Yang Ke Er started complaining about the meat being a little burned.

"You threw my good intentions into the drain! Don't eat it since it's burnt." Zhang Xiao Qiang chided at Yang Ke Er.

"Alright, I'm sorry. Oh my god, the meat is so tough!" Yang Ke Er said with a frown. "It doesn't come off no matter how hard I chew!"

"Treat it like you are eating a sow (female pig) and chew on it a few more times!" Zhang Xiao Qiang shared his experience.

"Uncle, what's your name?" Yang Ke Er finally remembered to ask for his name.

He felt his heart wrenched after he recalls some memories when Kang Ke Er asked for his name.

"Xiao Qiang! Xiao Qiang! Stop playing and come back for dinner," His mother would call for him when he was young.

"Please introduce yourself," The teacher steps down from the podium while he walks up, staring into the eyes of more than fifty people.

"I... I am Zhang Xiao Qiang," he answered softly, that was a memory in high school.

"Xiao Qiang, what you gonna do... Seeing someone younger dying before your very own eyes," that was when his classmate recited a famous movie line to him. [JY: Because Xiao Qiang is a commonly used name, it was used everywhere]

"Zhang Xiao Qiang? Hahaha, isn't that a cockroach? Sorry, hahaha.... I cannot take it, it's too funny," This happened when he went for a blind date.

Thinking about all those experiences, he is filled with resentment towards his name. It is like curse, following him until he dies.

"A name is just a symbol, it is just a memory, it cannot represent anything!" Zhang Xiao Qiang told Yang Ke Er sternly.

"But how should I address you? I can't always call you uncle right? Are you having menopause? Or are you still angry that I laughed at you for being single..."

He fell silent after hearing Yang Ke Er's comment.

He suddenly remembered how a cockroach begs to live after being trapped in a bottle, and also the times where he faced difficulties after leaving home.

"You can call me cockroach." Zhang Xiao Qiang makes up his mind.

"What? Cockroach? That is disgusting, I hate cockroaches! Why do you have to call yourself that!" Yang Ke Er made a negative remark about that idea of calling him cockroach.

"Are you full? Go to sleep if you are full! We will continue the training tomorrow!" Zhang Xiao Qiang orders Yang Ke Er to go to bed, while trying to change the subject.

"....." Yang Ke Er squirms into the blanket while muttering something.

Zhang Xiao Qiang finishes the last piece of meat, touch his belly and sighed. He always eats a lot when he is injured. Although it is good that he will recover fast, it is upsetting to see the food supply decreasing so fast.

He cuts off the remaining meat from the monster to barbeque, preparing to keep the meat as his food supply. Although the meat is tough, it does help to suppress his hunger. The monster is left with bones after cutting off all the meat. Zhang Xiao Qiang searched through the abdominal of the monster but could not find any gallbladder stone like the ones he usually finds in a cat.

“Could it be that only cats have that?” Zhang Xiao Qiang wondered.

With all the meat is now barbequing by the bonfire, Zhang Xiao Qiang wondered to himself, “The monster was enormous in size but there wasn’t much meat, only about 100 pounds. The rest is taken up by bones and organs, and after barbequing, we are left with around 50 pounds of edible meat,” (I remember buying roughly 5 pounds’ beef and after cooking, what’s left is only 2 pounds, not sure it was due to some injection to make the meat heavier – Author’s own thought)

After keeping the barbequed meat, he took a glance at the monster skin, and proceeds to scrape off the fascia (connective tissues) and used the ash from the burnt wood to tan the skin. He stops after seeing that it is almost done, thinking how should he use the skin? That is a tough question!

The main weapon has been destroyed as the iron lance has broken into two. The triangular pointed top of the iron lance has also turned into a S shape and the metal pipe is also bent out of shape. The iron lance has been through many battles with Zhang Xiao Qiang and he feels sad that he can no longer use it.



He buried the iron lance and hugged the pair of monster horns to sleep.

"Uncle Zhang, slow down, I cannot run anymore." Zhang Xiao Qiang stays in front, riding the bicycle with the bag of monster meat at the back of the bicycle while Yang Ke Er does her training, running behind the bicycle.

Zhang Xiao Qiang ignores her and continue riding his bicycle.

"Zhang Xiao Qiang stop now!!" Yang Ke Er shouted, panicking. She managed to guessed his name right then.

"Crunch!" he stopped, "finally you stopped! Pant, pant! I'm so tired!" Yang Ke Er walks to Zhang Xiao Qiang, breathing heavily.

Zhang Xiao Qiang ignores her and look through the binoculars. "What happen?" Yang Ke Er asked curiously.

There is a zombie in the field ahead, around a mile away with no buildings in sight. This is a rare opportunity!

"Can you see that zombie?" Zhang Xiao Qiang told Yang Ke Er while pointing to the direction of the field.

"What's the matter? It looks ordinary," Yang Ke Er doesn't give a second look and used her hand to fan herself.

"Go and kill it." Zhang Xiao Qiang spoke as if it was as easy as killing an ant.

"....." Yang Ke Er freezes up upon hearing what he said.

"B...But I don't have have any experience!" Yang Ke Er stares blankly at Zhang Xiao Qiang.

"No one has experience at the start. It is a good opportunity now, go, I will watch you from the back" Zhang Xiao Qiang explains to Yang Ke Er.

"T.. Then will you rescue me if I encounter any danger?" Yang Ke Er pleads.

"No, I told you before! You can only depend on yourself, if you don't dare to kill it today, you should dig a hole and bury yourself! Saves you from going through unnecessary suffering!" Zhang Xiao Qiang spoke firmly, with a stern look on his face.

"I.. What do I use to kill the zombie?" with an excuse, Yang Ke Er holds on to the side of his clothes tightly and looked at Zhang Xiao Qiang with puppy eyes.

"Take this," Zhang Xiao Qiang said as he took out an iron hammer.

## Yang Ke Er versus zombie

Translator: chinesenoveltranslated

"Hey uncle why are you being mean to me and not give me that thing?" Yang Ke-er said as she points to the crossbow in Zhang Xiao Qiang's bag.

"You gotta have the courage to face the zombie and not run far from it!" Zhang Xiao Qiang grumbles and continues, "If you are not going, I am going to leave you here, because I do not want to be fighting for my life while having to deal with a free loader," as he gets ready to leave on his bicycle.

"Okay I'm going... I didn't say I am not following," Yang Ke-er whines as she drags his feet and headed towards the zombie.

The zombie was approximately 60 to 70 meters away but Yang Ke-er took his own sweet time, and after five minutes she was still 40 meters away.

"If you are not going to hurry, I am really leaving!" Zhang Xiao Qiang shouted to Yang Ke-er, and his loud voice alerted the zombie. It started to walk towards them.

Yang Ke-er then started to walk faster towards the zombie and once the zombie could smell her, it ran towards her.

"Mummy!" Yang Ke-er cried as she turned her back towards the

zombies and started running. Zhang Xiao Qiang who was a few meters away heard it loud and clear.

“Woosh!” a silver bullet whizzed past the face of Yang Ke-er, and she was shocked at what just happened. She was scared stiff and stopped right at her tracks.

“If you continue to run, I’ll kill you!” Zhang Xiao Qiang proclaims as he continues to take aim at Yang Ke-er.

“WAAHHH” Yang Ke-er cries uncontrollably.

Zhang Xiao Qiang knew that it is cruel to make a 14 year old girl face zombies, but he had no other choice. He remembered telling Yang Ke-er during that night when they had a close encounter with the monster, and also countless times after the doomsday, that “No one is anyone’s saviour!”. To survive in this doomsday, amid the zombies and monsters, you can only count on yourself.

“If she can’t kill this zombie, I’ll just have to let it kill her,” Zhang Xiao Qiang thought to himself. Since doomsday, every survivor starts life afresh. Zhang Xiao Qiang knew that he is only a small character in this world, and do not have the responsibility and obligation to save anyone. “That is why there is no rules, no human rights and most of all, the lack of feelings for others,”. If you are going to focus on these points, you are just going to die faster.

Yang Ke-er continues to sob as she looks at Zhang Xiao Qiang pointing his crossbow at her relentlessly. She hesitates for a while, before turning around and started running towards the zombie. Once Yang Ke-er is

about 7 to 8 meters away from the zombie, she changed her direction, running to the back of the zombie.

"Oh? It seems that she is starting to use her brain. I see some improvement," Zhang Xiao Qiang thought to himself as he lights up a cigarette, watching from afar.

The zombie tried to turn to face Yang Ke-er, and once it come face to face with her, Yang Ke-er ran around again to the back of the zombie. And so the both of them continued to play "hide-and-seek", running from each other. Suddenly, "thump", the zombie could not keep up with Yang Ke-er's tempo, fumbling with its movement and fell to the ground.

"Chance!" Zhang Xiao Qiang shouted with delight. Yang Ke-er also knew that this is her chance and ran towards the zombie. "Thump" Yang Ke-er was too focused on the zombie that she missed her footing and fell over, just like the zombie.

"Cough, cough... Cough!" Zhang Xiao Qiang choked on his smoke when he saw how Yang Ke-er screwed up such a great opportunity.

Yang Ke-er stood up, but the zombie was also up by then.

Round one, Yang Ke-er versus zombie end in a draw.

Yang Ke-er took a few moments to adapt to the situation. No longer afraid of the zombie, she came was now within two meters away from the zombie. Zhang Xiao Qiang could see that Yang Ke-er has indeed improved, and felt relieved.

As Zhang Xiao Qiang finishes his cigarette, he looks at his watch and exclaims "15 minutes!". He looks up at the sky, and had an evil thought – "I hope that she settles this before she dies from exhaustion".

Yang Ke-er continues to watch the zombie and suddenly the zombie threw its arms towards her. Without flinching, she evaded the attack and side-stepped to the back of the zombie before giving all her might in hitting the zombie's back. It was a pity that this type of attack is useless against zombies, and the zombie retaliated by swinging its arm again, this time its sharp fingernails barely missing Yang Ke-er eyes.

Round two is over and Yang Ke-er has the upper hand.

But Zhang Xiao Qiang was bored as hell, lighting up another cigarette and blowing smoke rings.

With the experienced gained earlier, Yang Ke-er is now feeling gutsier and provoking the zombie from all different directions. She was floating around like a bee, moving from left to right before finally positioning herself right behind the zombie again. This time, she kicks the zombie's legs, making it lose balance and it fell to the ground.

"Ah...." Yang Ke-er screams as she prepares to give the deadliest attack to perverts and ruthlessly kicked the zombie right between the legs. Zhang Xiao Qiang winced when he saw that.

The fight was far from over. With the zombie still on the ground, Yang Ke-er jumped on its back, took out her iron hammer and smashed the zombie frantically. The zombie tried to get back up but after countless

blows, it stopped moving.

Round three and we have a winner!

Zhang Xiao Qiang walked to Yang Ke-er, but she was still hitting the zombie, and was mumbling something repeatedly.

“Thump”, Zhang Xiao Qiang placed his hand on Yang Ke-er’s shoulder.

“Woosh”, the iron hammer swung towards Zhang Xiao Qiang’s face and he managed to jump back and evade that blow. That was a close shave.

Yang Ke-er carry on her assault on the zombie, and it seems that Yang Ke-er was in a trance. Zhang Xiao Qiang went to squat beside Yang Ke-er and saw that she was sobbing and cursing, “sob sob sob... Stupid cockroach... sob sob sob... smelly cockroach... I’ll use an insecticide and spray you to death. Sob sob sob...”

Zhang Xiao Qiang could sense a strong resentment coming from Yang Ke-er.

What a scene – Zhang Xiao Qiang squatting beside Yang Ke-er while she continued to smash the zombie.

Soon, the strength in Yang Ke-er’s body slowly weaken and once the hitting stopped, Zhang Xiao Qiang brought Yang Ke-er aside to rest.

“How did that feel?” Zhang Xiao Qiang asked.

"I'm hungry!" Yang Ke-er exclaimed, as she rubbed her tummy. It seems that she is back to normal.

"Uncle, you didn't see what happened just now, that monster's fingernails missed my eyes by a tiny bit! Really! Just a little bit more and it would have scratched out my eyes! Ah! I was so terrified then..."

Yang Ke-er continued to explain the whole process with much vigour by animating it, while still holding on to a barbequed meat with bites in between. Zhang Xiao Qiang watches on, while eating his barbequed meat. He had saw everything that happened earlier and was obviously not interested in hearing her explain again.

"Ha ha ha!! I killed one today. Tomorrow I can kill two. Haha, two, I swear I can mercilessly kill ten thousand of them, haha" The more Yang Ke-er says, the more excited she becomes, and she started to become furious. Seeing how Yang Ke-er is acting, Zhang Xiao Qiang started to feel uneasy.

"Here," Zhang Xiao Qiang said as he presented the crossbow in front of Yang Ke-er.

"?????" Confused, Yang Ke-er looked at Zhang Xiao Qiang, but dare not reach out to accept the crossbow.

"Take it," Zhang Xiao Qiang said before putting the crossbow in the hands of Yang Ke-er. "You are now qualified to use it!" he continued, as he appears nonchalant about it.



## The night attack

Translator: chinesenoveltranslated

"Are you really giving it to me?" Yang Ke Er started to fiddle with the crossbow happily but she can't seem to use it well.

"The way you use is wrong, you should use it like this...." Zhang Xiao Qiang taught her how to adjust the scope and load the iron bullet and arrow.

"Click!" Yang Ke Er loaded the arrow and started aiming aimlessly. Zhang Xiao Qiang took a look at the first zombie that Yang Ke Er killed and pitied the dead zombie. Yang Ke Er had managed to crushed all his bones, except the head which seems perfectly unharmed. The zombie looked worse then being cut into pieces.

"Uncle! Will you still abandon me?" Yang Ke Er asked casually, aiming the crossbow at Zhang Xiao Qiang from time to time.

"Gulp!" Zhang Xiao Qiang swallowed his saliva nervously. Staring at the sharp arrow on the crossbow, his legs starts to tremble a little.

"Well....." Zhang Xiao Qiang sounded a little hoarse.

"Hmmm?????" Yang Ke Er asked doubtfully.

"As long as you continue your training and have the courage to face the

zombies alone, I will not abandon you." Zhang Xiao Qiang replied firmly, ignoring the cold sweat on his forehead.

"Yes, I will continue to work hard!" Yang Ke Er smiled brightly.

"Sigh!" Zhang Xiao Qiang let out a sigh of relief.

After a short rest, they continued their journey, with Zhang Xiao Qiang riding the bicycle and Yang Ke Er seated at the beam of the bicycle.

Shortly after they started their journey, the bicycle starts to tremble. He stopped to check on the bicycle and noticed that the front tire has already been deflated due to a laceration.

"FUCK! Such bad luck!" Zhang Xiao Qiang cursed.

"Come down! We need to change transport." He shouted at Yang Ke Er.

"Change what transport? Uncle?" Yang Ke Er continued to stay on the beam firmly.

"11 Road" (JY: 11 represents two feet which means walking) Zhang Xiao Qiang said while taking out the barbequed meat from the rear of the bicycle.

Zhang Xiao Qiang carried the barbequed meat and started walking on narrow road, with Yang Ke Er following behind him with her crossbow. They left the poor, lonely bicycle far behind.

Zhang Xiao Qiang walked breathlessly, still carrying the barbequed meat while Yang Ke Er complains that she is tired and needs a break. Looking at the darkened sky, it should be nightfall soon.

Not far ahead on a small hill there was a 2 story high house, and because there weren't any other buildings around, there weren't any zombie mobs in sight too.

Zhang Xiao Qiang decides that they should rest in the house. Ever since he was stuck in a house due to a D2 Zombie, Zhang Xiao Qiang has a strong resentment towards houses. However, after that incident when he lighted a bonfire in the night which ended up attracting the monster, he felt that a house is still safer than being out in the wilderness.

The house was a classic small farm house and it looked quite old. The white wall tiles were no longer shiny and the corner of the walls were filled with yellowish dried moss. The cement floor at the front yard was full of cracks.

The stainless steel windows of the house were locked. "Thup Thup Thup" Zhang Xiao Qiang knocked on the window and tries to hear if there is any movement in the house. There was only silence.

Zhang Xiao Qiang stepped back to observe the house, looking for a point where they can enter the house from.

"Uncle, what are you looking for?" Yang Ke Er asks while looking at Zhang Xiao Qiang.

"Don't disturb me, can't you see that I am trying to find a way to get into the house?" Zhang Xiao Qiang said, feeling annoyed.

"If you can't enter from ground level then we should go in from the top!" Yang Ke Er suggests as she glances at the second story. Zhang Xiao Qiang looked at the second story and saw that there was a balcony directly above the main entrance. A glass door was in the way from getting into the house from the balcony. He couldn't see if the glass door was locked but even so, they could use the hammer to break into the house.

Zhang Xiao Qiang plans to let Yang Ke Er step on his shoulder to climb up onto the balcony so that she she can unlock the main entrance door.

"Uncle, there might be monsters inside!" Yang Ke Er said nervously, looking around.

"Are you still afraid of zombies now?" Zhang Xiao Qiang asked.

"Oh right! I am no longer afraid now" Yang Ke Er recalled the victory she had against the zombie earlier on.

"Look at where you are stepping! You almost stepped on my face!"

"Sorry Sorry! A little higher. Just a little higher!"

"Forget it! Just take it as is my unlucky day and step on my head!"

“Uncle, I still can’t reach it. Why don’t you step on me instead?”

“How can you take my weight with your small and skinny frame? Get ready, I will push you up!” Zhang Xiao Qiang pushed Yang Ke Er up using his hands.

Yang Ke Er grab onto the railings and pulled herself up onto the balcony. “Uncle, wait for me! I will go and open the door!” Yang Ke Er disappears into the house the next moment.

“Kacha!” the steel door unlocks. “Uncle, it’s so dark inside, I’m scared!” Yang Ke Er told Zhang Xiao Qiang sounding fearful.

Zhang Xiao Qiang ignored her and walked into the house, it’s been a long time since anyone has stepped into this house and the house gave a little eerie and cold feeling. Inside the main hall, a longevity painting hangs on the wall, directly facing the door. The cabinet beside the painting had a statue of chairman Mao. The interior of the house was very simple and the white flooring of the house had turned slightly yellowish.

Zhang Xiao Qiang explored the first story and found the kitchen. Apart from the overflowing kitchen sink, the rest of the kitchen seemed pretty empty. There wasn’t any rice, sauce, oil or salt in sight. It was so empty that when a mouse enters the kitchen it will run away crying.

Beside the kitchen was a passageway. Following the passageway all the way to the back is a small yard, with a few rooms beside it. One is a garage and there were some tools and tires at the corner. The other room is a woodshed. There are 2 other rooms, one is a pigsty while the other is

a fire cage room (JY: that is what they say in the novel) where people in the village would use it to make smoked meat. Of course, there wasn't any smoked meat in the room.

There is an iron gate in the yard which leads to the back on the hill and the iron gate is locked firmly with a general lock.

"The owners must have managed to escape from the virus, gathering all their food supplies and drove off with their car. They even have enough time to lock the front and back gate." Zhang Xiao Qiang made a guess.

The room at the 1st story must be an old man's room as it was filled with old furniture and an old wooden bed. The rest of the rooms were used as a store room, and there was rice spilled all over the floor. (JY: rooms used to store rice supplies I guess)

The 2nd story consisted of a living room, a guest room and 3 bedrooms. The living room had wooden flooring, a big sofa and a set of high-class home theater system. The 3 bedrooms came with clean bed sheets which they can sleep on.

After dinner, Zhang Xiao Qiang and Yang Ke Er used the big cauldron in the kitchen to boil hot water and took a hot shower happily. (JY: definitely not together?!)

"You can sleep inside and I will sleep at the living room. Take note if there is any movement at night, don't sleep like a dead person" Zhang Xiao Qiang told Yang Ke Er before they go to bed.

"Okay, stop nagging! Ohhh! It's been a long time since I slept on a bed!" Yang Ke Er walked towards to the bed happily.

Zhang Xiao Qiang lied down on the sofa and covered himself with a blanket while placing the army knife within reach. Zhang Xiao Qiang fell asleep quickly in the soft and comfortable sofa.

An iron tube pokes Zhang Xiao Qiang in the stomach. Still half asleep, he used his hand to rub his tummy and continued his slumber. The iron tube then taps on Zhang Xiao Qiang's face, this time round he opened his eyes in shocked!

A flashlight was shining at him, making it hard for him to open his eyes. All he could see was a blurred shadow holding a flashlight.

It took awhile for Zhang Xiao Qiang to get used to the bright light. He squinted his eyes and saw a homemade shotgun aiming at him, with the flashlight pointed all over his body as the person tries to see if he had any hidden weapon.

"Who are you?" the shadow asked. He sounded like a young man.

"I'm a survivor! I came here to seek refuge!" Zhang Xiao Qiang replied, trying to sound as genuine as possible.

"I don't care if you are a damn survivor or not. Why are you at my house? Speak!" the shadow sounded very angry.

"Put the gun down and hear me out, I am not a bad guy." Zhang Xiao

Qiang explained.

"You are at my house and yet you ask me to put down my gun? Huh? Screw you" the person flared up and "Bang!" the shotgun hit Zhang Xiao Qiang's face. Zhang Xiao Qiang clutched on to his face and continues to persuade the man.

"Don't move, move again and I will shoot you!" Yang Ke Er emerges to join in the commotion as she holds on to her crossbow.



## Chapter 30 – Are you crazy?!

The man turned and aimed his shotgun at Yang Ke Er, preparing to pull the trigger any time. Zhang Xiao Qiang saw the opportunity and pounced on him.

“Bang!” a gunshot was fired and cement powder fell around them as the bullet hit the ceiling. Zhang Xiao Qiang and the man fell to the ground still interlocked with each other while the living room was filled with the smell of gunpowder. Both of them rolled on the floor while one tried to overpower the other. “Pa”, they knock onto the sofa’s leg and at the next moment, they hit the coffee table, shattering the glass. The shattered glass fell all around the floor cutting both of their faces and arms but no one seems to notice it.

Once the man’s grip loosens, Zhang Xiao Qiang snatched over the shotgun but immediately after that he took a strong hit to his nose. The man took the opportunity to give Zhang Xiao Qiang a headbutt when he was busy stealing the shotgun. It was like a spice shop opened up in Zhang Xiao Qiang’s face, as he could feel the taste of sourness, saltiness, bitterness and spiciness all at one go.

Zhang Xiao Qiang’s tears and mucus started to flow out. Before he could react, a pair of strong hands grabbed onto his throat. The pair of hands, full of calluses, start to tighten with force.

With the air stuck in his chest, unable to get out of his airway, Zhang Xiao Qiang’s face started to turn green, and his vision blurred from the lack of oxygen. The long forgotten flashlight was at a corner, illuminating the wooden floor. Unable to see both of them clearly, Yang Ke Er stood near the bedroom door waiting anxiously.

With the whole world spinning, Zhang Xiao Qiang lifted his right leg, using all his strength and successfully sent the man flying by landing a kick on his abdominal.

“Cough cough! Gasp gasp gasp!” Zhang Xiao Qiang remain seated, rubbing his poor throat. He started coughing and breathing heavily while

at the same time trying to take in as much air as possible.

"Ahhhhhhhh!!" The man pounce onto Zhang Xiao Qiang again.

"Knock" Zhang Xiao Qiang frantically tries to bring up the shotgun and the barrel hits the man.

"Ahh!" The man cried, as he turned around and rushes down the stairs. He seems to be well aware of the surroundings and disappear quickly.

"Stop daydreaming! Quick, help me up!" Zhang Xiao Qiang was still seating on the wooden floor, demanding Yang Er Ke to help.

"Okay" Yang Ke Er ends her daydreaming and walks over to Zhang Xiao Qiang to help him up onto the sofa.

The fight that happen left Zhang Xiao Qiang confused. He retrieved the flashlight and shined it onto his watch. It is 5:20am. Seems like they will not be able to continue their sleep, and who knows if the man will come back or not.

Yang Ke Er heartlessly went back into the bedroom and continue her beauty rest while Zhang Xiao Qiang stay seated on the sofa, waiting for daybreak.

"Could he be the owner? Had he mistaken us as thieves?" Zhang Xiao Qiang thought.

"That can be it! Why wasn't he staying here then? There are no zombies near here so it's pretty safe..." he was confused.

"Is he hiding a secret? Such that he had to secretly return to his house at midnight instead." Zhang Xiao Qiang continued to let his mind run wild.

"Morning uncle!" Zhang Xiao Qiang lifted his head, and saw Yang Ke Er walking out of the bedroom, rubbing her eyes. Looking through the glass door, it is now morning.

With the first story main entrance remains tightly locked the sunlight could only enter the house through the first story window. Still, it managed to slowly brighten the entire house.

"He did not enter from there, so how...?" following the passageway from the kitchen to the yard, the iron gate is unlocked with the lock hanging on the gate.

Opening the iron gate, a small walkway leads towards the hill. There wasn't much vegetation on the hill. A few pine trees about the height of 2 to 3 humans can be seen along the walkway. Apart from the pine trees, rows of bushes were growing neatly on the hill.

"Stay here and wait for me. Don't go loitering around." Zhang Xiao Qiang instructed Yang Ke Er while he took the pair of monster horns and stuff them into 2 hollow bamboo sticks. He fits one-third of the horn into the 1-meter-long bamboo stick with the sharp end of the horn sticking out of the bamboo pole.

"Then... What if you don't return?" Yang Ke Er pursed her lips and asked.

"Then you better just die far from here as possible!! Watch your belongings!" Zhang Xiao Qiang doesn't care about his unlucky mouth anymore. Holding onto the shotgun with the bamboo pole on his back, he follows the walkway into the hill.

Holding onto the shotgun, he stops every now and then looking at his surroundings staying on high alert. He continued for about 15 minutes.

Spotting a cave from afar, he continued on without any obstructions before reaching it. The cave is about 6 to 7 meters tall and about 5 meters wide. There were some carvings at the side of the cave. Loading the shotgun, Zhang Xiao Qiang ventured into the cave cautiously. The cave seems pretty deep. Near the entrance of the cave has carvings that read "be prepared for war".

After walking about 10 meters in, he spotted a three wheeled agricultural vehicle. The vehicle is painted red, with the word "spear" painted in white at the side of the vehicle. Above the oil tank was a key. "A key..." Zhang Xiao Qiang tries to take a closer look.

With a strong force from behind, a big foot furiously lands on Zhang Xiao Qiang's back. Zhang Xiao Qiang stumbled forward and falls flat on the uneven ground. "Bang" he fired the gun into the darkness as he

accidentally pulled the trigger when falling. Without thinking too much, Zhang Xiao Qiang rolled over to the side.

“Dang” a huge boulder was thrown right in front of Zhang Xiao Qiang, and he quickly stood up, while drawing out his bamboo horn pole. He immediately faced the threat.

A man was standing behind the vehicle and Zhang Xiao Qiang couldn't see him clearly as it is rather dark in the cave. But he could tell that the man is holding a kitchen knife and looked nervous.

“I knew it! You guys finally came, you are here to arrest me right?” The man shouted at Zhang Xiao Qiang.

Grabbing onto the bamboo horn pole with both hands, Zhang Xiao Qiang took 2 steps forward. He was then able to see the face of the man. He looked young, must be in his early twenties. He also looked strong as he clenches his hand into a fist while his other hand holding tightly onto the kitchen knife. His legs were trembling and he appeared to be afraid and nervous.

“You, don't come over, I didn't wish for that to happen, please don't arrest me.” The man was getting agitated when he saw Zhang Xiao Qiang approaching him. His hands were now trembling like crazy but he continued to keep his kitchen knife pointed towards Zhang Xiao Qiang.

“Are you crazy?” Zhang Xiao Qiang whispered to himself. “Buddy, calm down, I'm a passerby, I'm not here to arrest you.” Zhang Xiao Qiang tried to convince him that he meant no harm.

“No, you are lying to me, you are here to arrest me, you are here to kill me. AAAHHHHH!!!” The man roared and pounced towards Zhang Xiao Qiang with the knife.

“Ding!” Zhang Xiao Qiang blocks the attack with his bamboo pole, “Dong!” he lands a kick on the chest of the man which forced the man to stumble 10 steps back.

“AAAHHHH!” The man threw the knife at Zhang Xiao Qiang and ran towards the exit of the cave.

Zhang Xiao Qiang managed to use the bamboo poles to make a cross in front of him, thus successfully stopping the flying knife. "Deng!" the knife falls to the ground.

"Oh no, that little girl!" Zhang Xiao Qiang was afraid that the man will try to hurt Yang Ke Er and quickly chased after that man.

Once Zhang Xiao Qiang rushed out of the cave, he saw a shadow running towards the hill. He continued to chase closely until the man stopped at the stop of the top of the hill. They were now next to a cliff. Below the cliff was a stone pit and there was no more road to run.

"Don't come closer, I didn't wish for it to happen, I didn't want to kill them, you can't blame me!" The man continues to blabber on while backing up, all the way to the edge of the cliff.

"....." Zhang Xiao Qiang went speechless. He was attacked during midnight and had to remain on high alert until morning and he now has to witness this man going crazy in front of him. Zhang Xiao Qiang wanted to turned his back and ignore the guy but was afraid that he would stab him from the back. Killing him wasn't on his mind as he didn't have the heart to kill him.

"I did kill them, but they were no longer my grandparents, no longer my parents, not my brother and sister-in-law, they were monsters, they ate Xiao Hao in front of me." The man's face looked ferocious as he mumbled non-stop.

"Hey buddy, take it easy, no one is saying that you are wrong!" Zhang Xiao Qiang pretended to persuade him but deep down, he felt indifferent. Zhang Xiao Qiang could tell that the guy had no internet and wasn't aware that the world had changed, therefore thinking that he had become a murderer.

"HAHAHAHA! Don't try to lie to me, I know you are here for me, I am not going to jail, you can't catch me!" The man went crazy and jumped off the cliff!

Zhang Xiao Qiang stood at the edge of the cliff and looked down. The man was lying above a huge rock, with fresh blood flowing down from

the rock onto the ground. "Stupid idiot" Zhang Xiao Qiang commented.

It's too scary if one doesn't know how to get on the internet, that was Zhang Xiao Qiang's final conclusion about the world.

